Jiu Jiu

3

Story & Art by

Touya Tobina

Jiu Jiu

Vol. 3

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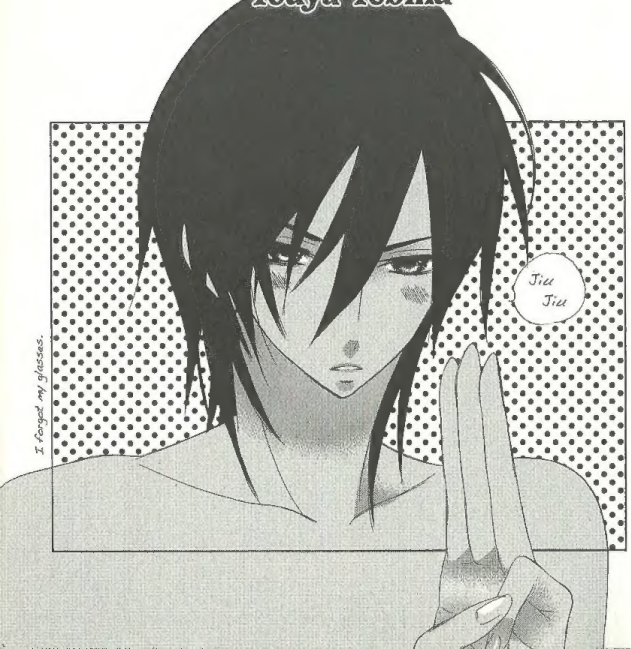
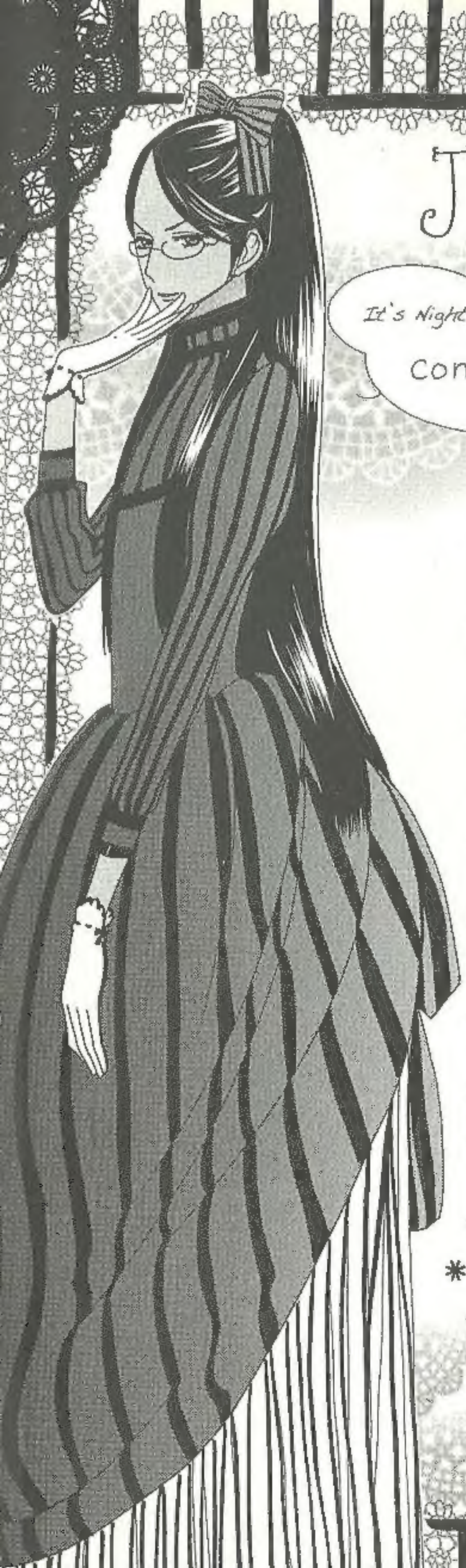


JIOJIO 3



Contents.

Walk 12: The Promise.. 3
When you look at me, I'm speechless. But it pains me as well.

Walk 13: The Feast... 53
It's not the full moon or the snow that unsettles me...

Walk 14: The Black Cat and the Duckling... 103
...

Walk 15: Ten Opaque Colors... 143
If I say, "I don't know" (because I don't know), you'll be upset with me again, won't you?

Fan Service... 185

Scanner: Silver Ame
JIU JIU
—獣従(じゅうじゅう)—
WALK 12: THE PROMISE

...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ?!

!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING...

THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING IS TODAY, YOU KNOW!

You must prepare yourself!

I'M GOING OUT TO PLAY.

C'MON, LET'S GO!
SNOW ...!
NIGHT ...!
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
THE FAMILY HEADS OF THE EIGHT CLANS ARE ARRIVING TONIGHT.
PLEASE RETURN BY EARLY EVENING!
WE...
...HAVE SNOW AND NIGHT TO THANK FOR THE CHANGE IN HER.
I suppose you'd call that "animal therapy."
CHUCK
...HARD TO BELIEVE THAT'S THE SAME MISTRESS TAKAMICHI WHO USED TO SHUT EVERYONE OUT.
SIGH... IT'S...
Yes.

R SsT L

What is he doing?

ISN'T THAT HIM OVER THERE?

PLOP

LET'S TAKE A BREAK.

WHERE'S SNOW...?

...CONTAINS MONSTERS.

MOST PEOPLE THINK THEY ONLY EXIST IN THE REALM OF MYTH AND FANTASY.

AHH...

OUR WORLD ...

CHRP CHRP CHRP

NUDGE

I AM THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD FAMILY OF A HUNTER CLAN...

MY NAME IS TAKAMICHI HACHIOJI, AGE 17.

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...

S-stop...

Does it tickle? Huh?

Yip! AWOO ...

Here ...?

Or are you ticklish here?

SOMETIMES THESE MONSTERS MEAN PEOPLE HARM...

AHH...

THOSE WHO RID THE WORLD OF MONSTERS ARE CALLED...

HUNTERS.

TKKL TKKL

Hey, you!

ARE YOU BORED OF ME?!

?!

SHUV

HF
...PLEASE... CUT THAT OUT!
WOULD YOU...
MISTRESS TAKAMI...
HA HA...
GIVE UP YET?
BLUSH
TAIL
OH YES I CAN!
SNIFF
SNIFF
What's he running away for...?
I CAN SEE YOU BLUSHING! IT SHOWS THROUGH YOUR SILHOUETTE!
TROT TROT

RSTL

THEY'RE ...

...HUMAN ...

I FOUND A WHOLE BUNCH OF THEM TO PICK!

HA HA.

TAKA-MI...

OOF!

GRAB

SHUT YOUR SNOUT.

YOU'LL WAKE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!

HMM!

...AND THEY'RE MON-STERS.

SNF

SNF

SNF

SNF

HOP

HOP

I WONDER WHAT SHE'S DREAMING ABOUT...
NIGHT
NIGHT...
SNOW
TAKAMICHI'S MINIONS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "JIU JIU."
YUKI ...?
YUKI.
TAKA-MICHI ...
DON'T LEAVE ME...!
NO...!
TAKAYUKI IS DEAD?!
YOU PROMISED!

PROMISED WE'D ALWAYS BE TOGETHER...

YOU PROMISED ME, YUKI!

WITH TAKAYUKI GONE, WHO WILL BE HACHIOJI'S SUCCESSOR?

TAKAMICHI.

YOU MUST BE JOKING. SHE'S A GIRL!

THERE'S NO PRECEDENT FOR A WOMAN BECOMING A FAMILY HEAD!

WHAT ABOUT HER FIANCÉ? ARE YOU GOING TO CHANGE THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT SO THE GROOM IS ADOPTED INTO THE WIFE'S FAMILY?

YES.

...PROMISED ME.

...YOU.

FWA

FFA

DRAG DRAG DRAG

SQUEE

SQUEE

A-a-a-ah.

KULL

O-o-oh.

Oh.

...TO STAY TOGETHER FOREVER.
I WANT YOU TWO BROTHERS...
UH-HUH.
AND YOU'LL ALWAYS BE WITH US TOO, MISTRESS!
PROMISE?!
How did you make it?
YEAH.
Her! Did you make this yourself, Mistress? Bow wow!
FWUU
FWUU

#44

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

WHAT ...?
But... YOU ALREADY GAVE ME A PRESENT, THE DIARY, REMEMBER?
UH-HUH.
BUT...
...THAT WASN'T REALLY FROM ME...
...BECAUSE IT WAS NIGHT'S DIARY.
SO NOW ...
...TAKE THIS AS...
...A TOKEN OF MY AFFECTION.
SN

It must have been hard to find all this clover.

SNOW!

SNOW GAVE HER MY DIARY WITHOUT MY PERMI—

THANKS.

No kissing on the nose!

GRR

She kisses your snout, doesn't she, Night?

THAT'S NOT FAIR!! NOT FAIR!!

...

A text --

NAH! PIECE OF CAKE !!

SHUSH.

My mom--

I'LL BE FINE. I JUST HAVE TO GET THERE BEFORE IT STARTS.

...MAKE IT BACK IN TIME FOR THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING?

HEY! WILL YOU BE ABLE TO...

ROAD BLOCK

WE'VE GOT TO HUNT.

C'MON, LET'S GO.

FIANCÉ ...?
Is that something good to eat?
He's not something you're allowed to eat.
...FIANCÉ?
Umm...
WELL, HE'S NOT MY FIANCÉ ANYMORE, BUT...
He'll still be there.
MY FORMER FIANCÉ KEPT PICKING FIGHTS WITH ME...
...AT THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING TEN YEARS AGO.
SO I DON'T WANT TO SPEND ANY MORE TIME THERE THAN I HAVE TO.
RSTTL
...SO I CAN'T BE LATE.
BUT I DID PROMISE I'D GO...
SPRNG
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
YUP.

JUST ONE PUNCH FOR A CHIMERA, HUH...?

TWIT

HOWWL

SLISH

TH

O

K

CHIMERA SPAWN!

GRROWR

GRROWR

TAKAMICHI! TAKAMICHI!

IT WAS...
...PROTECTING THEM...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THEY DON'T LOOK VERY GOOD TO EAT.
SHSH
SHSH
SHWSH
SPLTR
WRL
JNNGL
HFF
SH

WAIT!

SHWOO

JNGL

SPLAT

RSST

JNGL

THUD
YOU FEEL SORRY FOR...
...THEM?
UH-HUH. SO...
...WHAT'S THAT BY YOUR LEG?
...
...CONSIDER THESE MONSTERS...
YOU...
GRR
...YOUR FRIENDS...
...AND MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, DON'T YOU?
DON'T LET YOUR...
...EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF YOU.

THEY DON'T GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE.

THEY'RE EXPENDABLE.

THEY'RE USEFUL.

...

CAN I SLAY THEM?
WHO ARE THEY?
THIS PLACE OUGHT TO BE OFF LIMITS TO OUTSIDERS ...
...ISN'T AN OUTSIDER.
HE...
THIS IS MIKA NEKOZANE. THE FAMILY HEAD OF THE NEKOZANE CLAN AND...
HA!
...MY EX-FIANCÉ.
THANKS TO TAKAYUKI'S DEATH...
...I DON'T HAVE TO WASTE TIME TAMING YOU.
!
TAKA-MICHI...

BLAM

IT'S GUN-POWDER!

THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE HERE...

AND...

...WHAT IS THAT SMELL?

!

WHUMP

HEY...
...
SEIJURO.
...
YOU OUGHTA LOOK BEFORE YOU SHOOT.
YEAH? OR WHAT--?

FWAP

...

WOULDN'T YOU REGRET IT IF A STRAY BULLET HIT YOUR BRIDE?

...

PLEASE PUT YOUR GUN AWAY, MASTER SEIJURO.

FORGIVE MY DISCOURTEOUSNESS.
SHA
KLANK
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO FIRE YOUR GUN OUTSIDE OF A HUNT.
GREETINGS, TAKAMICHI, HEIR TO THE...
... HACHIOJI CLAN.
AND MIKA, FAMILY HEAD OF THE NEKOZANE CLAN.
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SHOOT IN ORDER TO INTERVENE.
HEY!
THAT IS SUCH A TYPICAL SHIRATORI CLAN RESPONSE!
HAD NO CHOICE ... HUH?

I'LL ...

... TAKE YOU ALL ON!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH TAKAMICHI...

HOW RUDE...!

Oh...

MASTER SEIJURO. IS THIS A MIRACLE?! OR IS IT FATE?!

...

IT'S FATE, ISN'T IT?! AND I CAN GRAB AHOLD OF MY FATE SO IT DOESN'T SLIP AWAY, RIGHT?! CAN'T I?!

SIGH

...

?

HALLUCI-NATING

WHITE !!

For starters.

Hey there! Tobina here!

I've learned how to ink dark areas!!

I don't know if I'm doing a good job of it though

I tried to start this note off all casual, but now I'm totally embarrassed

Anyway, Jiu Jiu vol 3 is full of all kinds of new characters, but unlike the joke illustration in the table of contents, the story itself is pretty serious

Although in some ways, the male family heads all look comical

They should joke around more.

Anyway, here begins a very long day..

...SHE'S NOT SUITED TO BE...

...A HUNTER— LET ALONE HEAD OF HER FAMILY.

...KILL THE CHILD TOO.

IF YOU KILL THE PARENT...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT...

OTHERWISE IT'LL GROW UP TO SHOOT YOU IN THE BACK. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?

...SEIJURO?

2010, June 29.
A dog came to my house

Back in vol. 2
I wrote that I only received two letters. Two!! Two?!

Sorry! To tell the truth, I've been getting tons of love letters!!
Thank you, everybody!

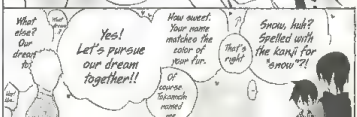
And after vol 2 came out, I got even more love letters - and questions too.
Thank you, thank you.

But!

I need permission to repeat your questions here, so I'm only going to answer the ones I get permission for.

Yes, as always, I forgot to do my homework.

There were lots of interesting questions, so it's too bad. But I'll try to answer some in vol 4 if I get the chance!
I'll write more later, but if you don't mind having your questions printed here, please write a little note in your letter telling me, "Sure I don't mind."


What else? Our dream to
Yes! Let's pursue our dream together!!
How sweet. Your name matches the color of your fur.
That's right!
Snow, huh? Spelled with the kanji for "snow"?!

MY NAME'S RIPPLE. I'M A CROW TENGU.

...SERVE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S FIANCÉ SEIJURO SHIRATORI.

I...

Oh!

EXCUSE ME...

NOW ...

IT'S YOUR TURN, MASTER SEIJURO.

MY FAVORITE COLOR S WHITE! AND, OH! THAT'S THE SAME COLOR AS YOU, SNOW!

A PIECE OF ME ?!

...

What do you want?

What ?!

THEY'RE ALREADY LOOKING DAGGERS AT EACH OTHER!!

WELL, SEE YOU LATER THEN!
TOODLE-OO!
HEY! MASTER SEIJURO!
YOU HAVE TO GET ALONG WITH HER...!
Hm...
Um...
VIP
For-get it...
MASTER SEIJURO!
ARE THEY GOING TO BE AT THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING TOO?
YEAH.
BUT I SURE HOPE THEY GET LOST ON THE WAY THERE!
Get lost!
WE BETTER HEAD BACK NOW, BUT...
ARGH! I DON'T WANT TO GO!
THEN...

...DON'T.

NO.

WHAT?!

THAT ISN'T AN OPTION.

C'MON. LET'S GO HOME.

YOU SOUND LIKE SNOW.
THAT'S RIGHT, NIGHT.
You mustn't be selfish.
SNOW, YOU IDIOT!
DON'T YOU REAL-IZE...
...HOW MEANINGLESS THIS IS?!

WHY...? WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

SOB

YOU KNOW HOW HARD I WORKED TO FIND THOSE FLOWERS...

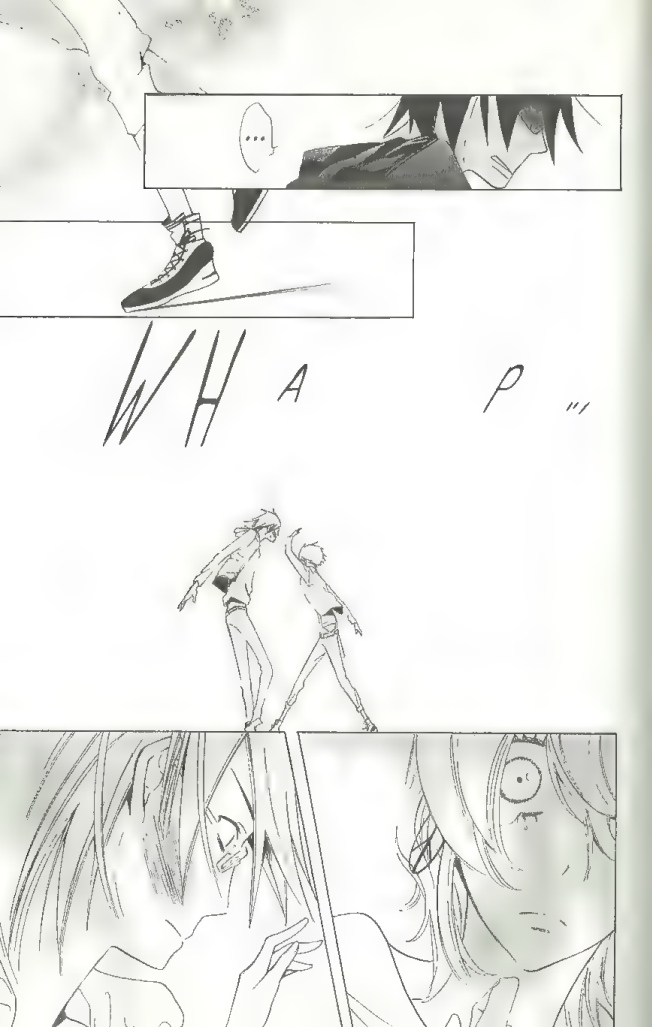
...AND MAKE THIS NECKLACE...

I...

I WORKED... SO HARD... ON IT...

...

SNOW ...


...
WHAP!!

...SOMEDAY THERE'LL BE SOMEONE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN US!!

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...

What ...?

NIGHT!

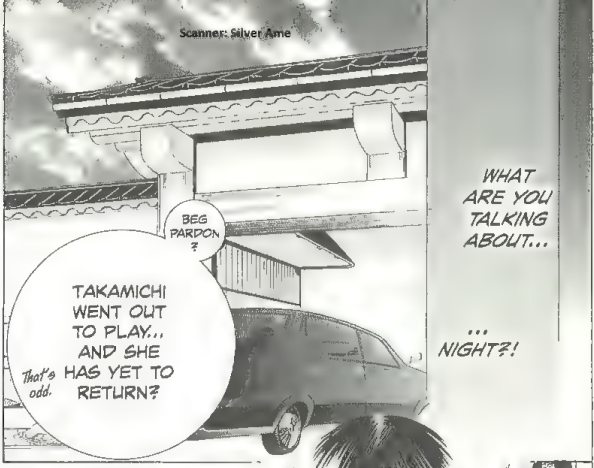
WHETHER IT'S MEANINGLESS OR NOT...

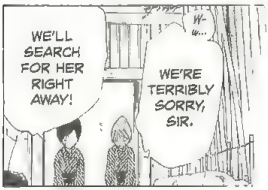
...ISN'T FOR YOU TO DECIDE, NIGHT!

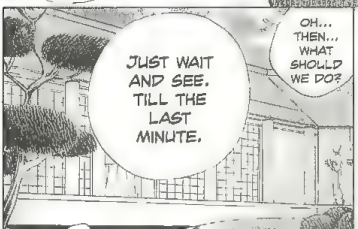
Ni...

IT'S MEANING-LESS!

Scanner: Silver Ame






OH... THEN... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
JUST WAIT AND SEE. TILL THE LAST MINUTE.
...THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A CHANCE OF TRACKING HER IS MOON.
IF SHE'S REALLY MAKING A RUN FOR IT...
I AIN'T GOING AFTER HER. What a pain she is.
For Master's sake...

I CAN'T TRACK HIS SCENT...

SNIFF

SNOW...

CAN YOU USE YOUR NOSE YET?

UM...

HOWWW...

HOWWW

...

...GOT MAD BECAUSE I GAVE YOU A PRESENT...

...ALL ON MY OWN.

NIGHT...

I'M NOT SURPRISED SNOW'S SO UPSET...

TAKA-MICHI...

WE'VE NEVER SEEN NIGHT LIKE THAT BEFORE...

I THOUGHT THERE'D BE BLOODSHED FOR SURE...

...FIND NIGHT...

...PLEASE DON'T BE MAD AT HIM...

UM...

IF WE...

DON'T ...
...HIT HIM LIKE THAT AGAIN, OKAY...?
THAT...
SNIFF
...HURT ME TOO ...
I'M SORRY...

IT'S THE CHIMERA SPAWN!

GROWR

WSH

PLOP

SNOW ...

AHH AHH

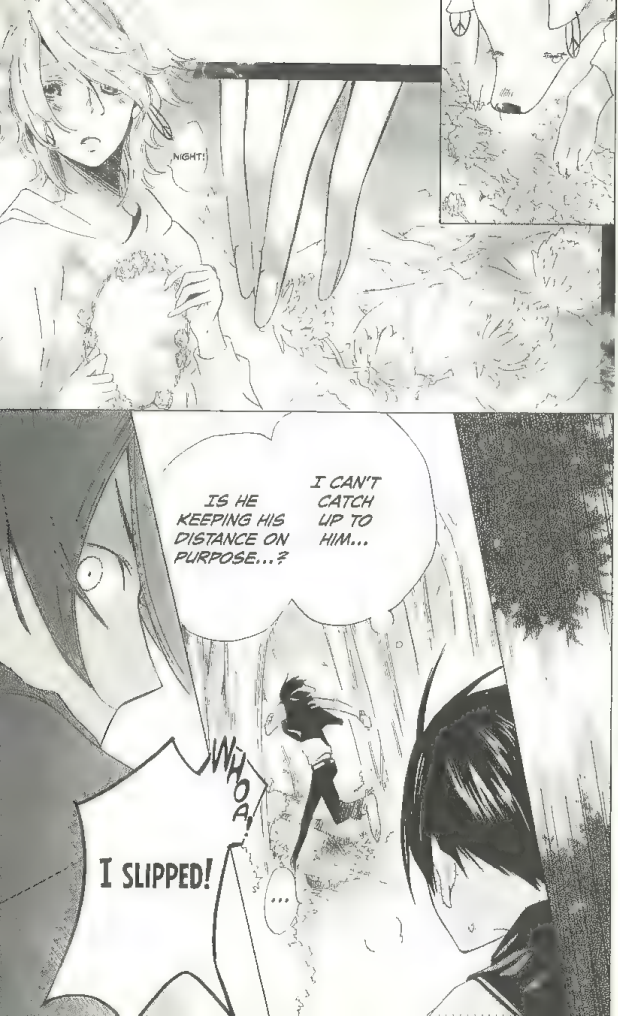
SHRILL HOWL

N-N...

COME BACK HERE!

TWEE

NIGHT!


NIGHT!
I CAN'T CATCH UP TO HIM...
IS HE KEEPING HIS DISTANCE ON PURPOSE...?
WHOA!
I SLIPPED!
...

NIGHT!

GOTCHA.

...

...LIKE TO RUN AWAY FROM ME, DON'T YOU...?

YOU SURE DO...

DO YOU HATE ME SO MUCH?

...

HOW COULD I...
...
EVER
...
...
HATE YOU
...
...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ?!

I'M SORRY.

DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU THAT...
...YOU HAVE TO MARRY THAT GUY?
IS ALL THIS OKAY WITH YOU...?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE GETS TO CHOOSE WHO HE MARRIES EITHER.
...
AFTER-WARDS... CAN I...
CAN WE...
...STILL LIVE WITH YOU?

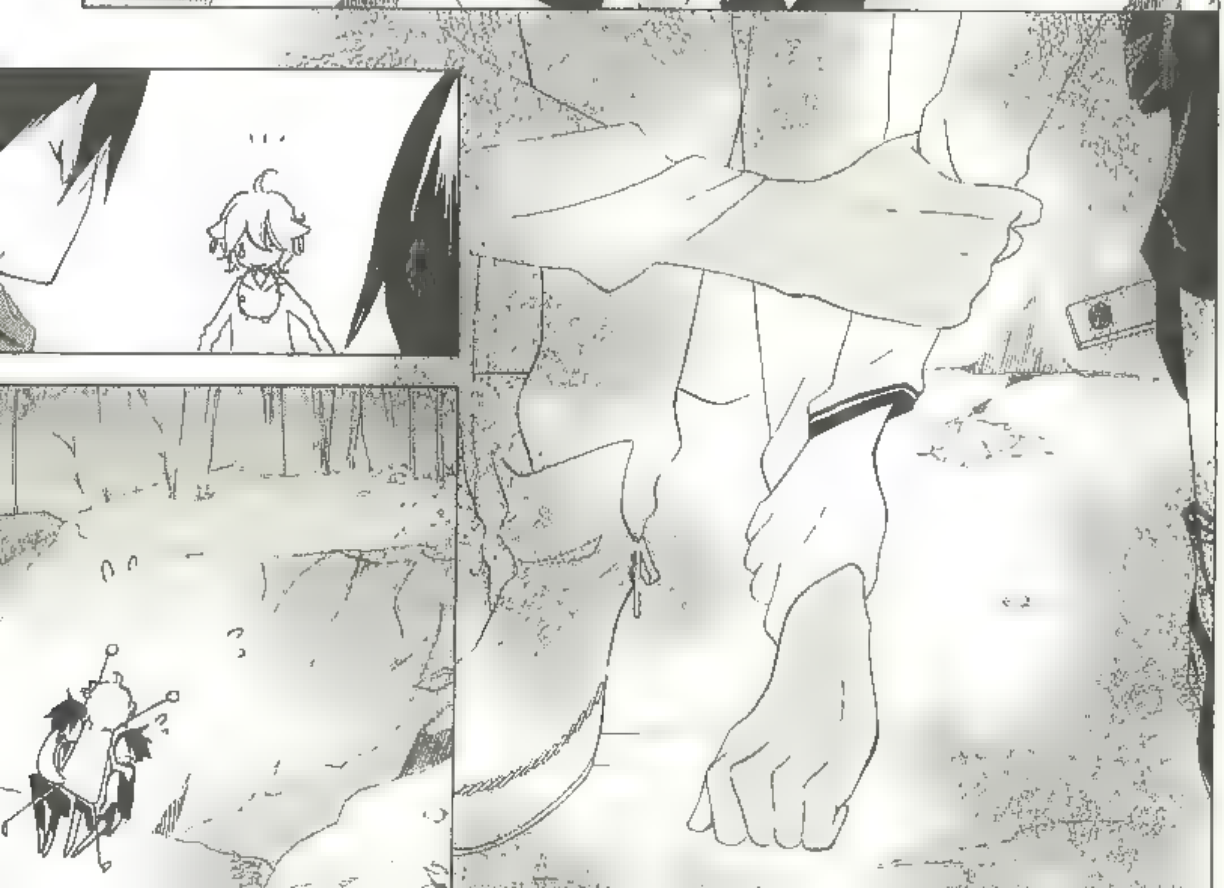
I WANT...

...YOU TWO BY MY SIDE.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

...
SNOW
...
...AND
NIGHT.
I WANT YOU
BY MY SIDE
FOREVER...

...
WORRIED
YOU...
...
I'M
SORRY
I...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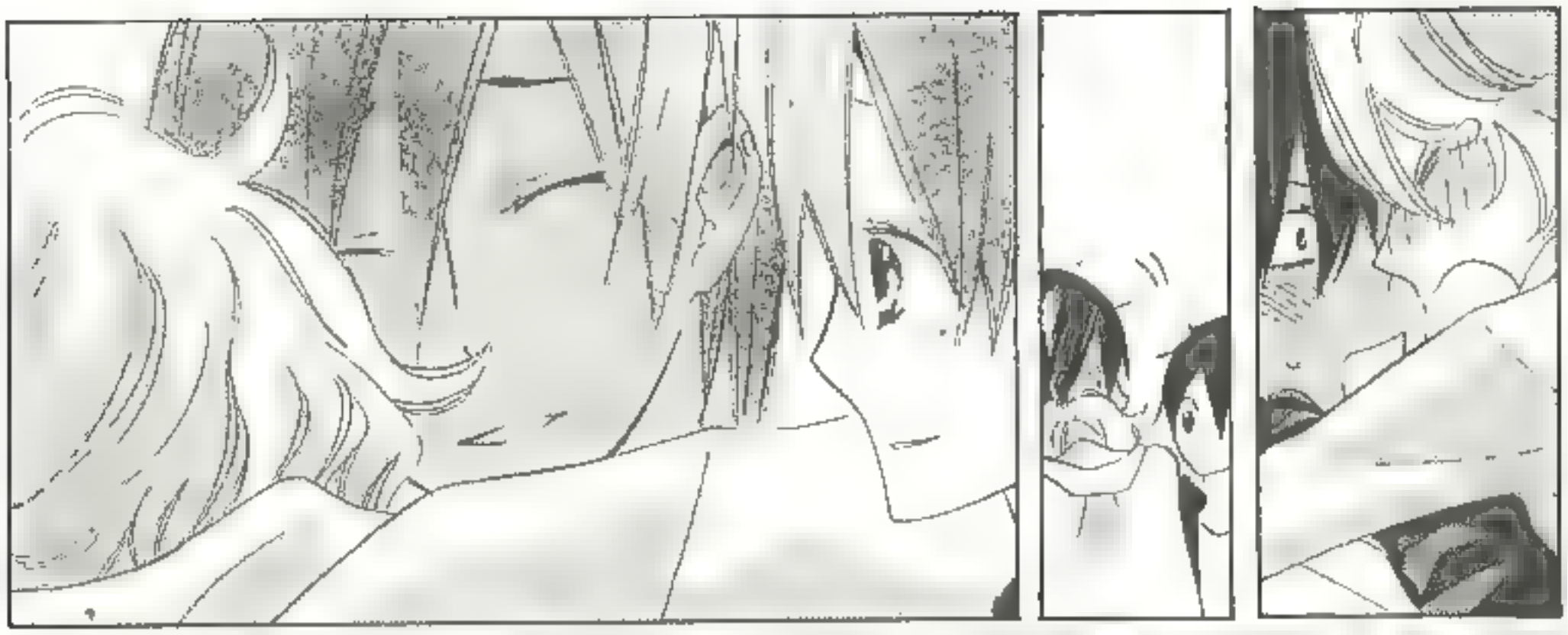
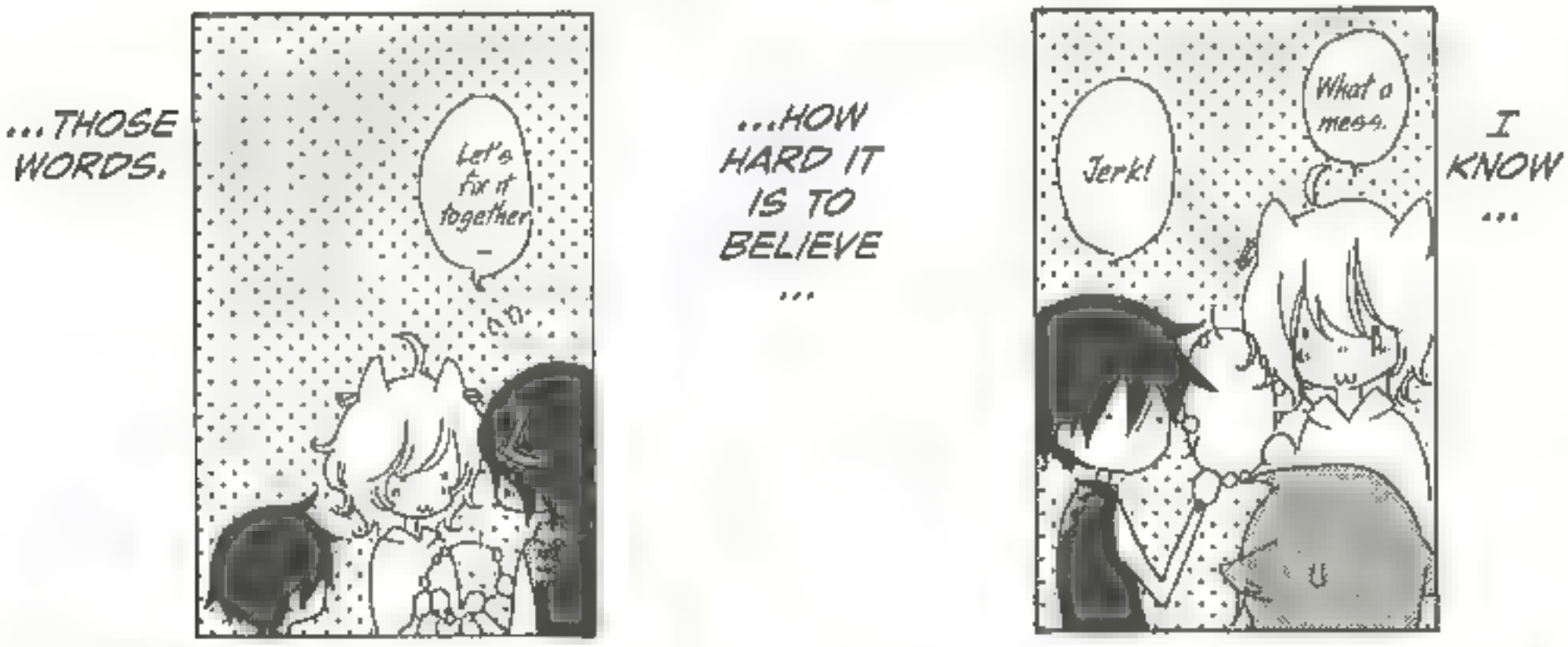


"WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER."



OVER AND...
What?!
She broke it apart!
OVER AND...
What?
She took it off.
...INTO SOME-THING REAL THAT WE CAN SEE AND TOUCH.
SO WE CAN TURN THESE WORDS ...
OOPS.

HEH... I BET SHE'S TAKING HER TIME GETTING READY.

YOUR DAUGHTER IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU EXPECT US TO WAIT FOR HER?

AS WE THOUGHT, A YOUNG WOMAN WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PERFORM THE ROLE OF THE HEAD OF A FAMILY.

I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING.

...

Ha ha ha.

BECAUSE SHE'S A GIRL?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS...

...

SHUREN?

Um...

SHE'S RIGHT OUTSIDE.

MOON ...

I'M SORRY.
TRMP TRMP TRMP
SLAM
I'M LATE!
...THE HEIR...
...TO THE HACHIOJI CLAN...
MRMR
MRMR
I'M...
...
TAKAMICHI HACHIOJI.

Scanner: Silver Ame
JUJU
-獣従-
WALK 13: THE FEAST

I'M TAKAMICHI— HEIR TO THE HACHIOJI CLAN.

THANKS FOR COMING SUCH A LONG WAY TO BE HERE TODAY.

SORRY I'M LATE!

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO DISCUSS SERIOUS STUFF TOMORROW...

...SO JUST CHILL OUT AND MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME TONIGHT.

SHE DOESN'T LOOK TOO BRIGHT...

SO THAT'S HER...!

...?

YOU ARE THE HEIR...
...TO THE HACHIOJI FAMILY— THE HEAD OF ALL EIGHT CLANS.
FIDGET
PSST
...
SNOW ...
NIGHT ... ...come!
Tap
PSST

WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY YOU ARRIVED SO LATE.

AWW, STUFF IT...

EAST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

WASHITAKE CLAN FAMILY HEAD

YOU OUGHT TO TAKE THAT RESPONSIBILITY MORE SERIOUSLY.

WEST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

SONMA CLAN FAMILY HEAD

WEST HUNTING UNIT

NEKOZANE CLAN FAMILY HEAD: MIKA (TAKAMICHI'S EX-FIANCÉ)

WHY YOU !
LITTLE-

BE STILL, MIKA.

ALL YOU GUYS DO IS GIVE ORDERS.

YOU NEVER DO ANY OF THE DIRTY WORK YOURSELVES. YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO PREACH TO US.

BY THE WAY...

NORTH HUNTING UNIT

SHIRATORI CLAN FAMILY HEAD: KANKURO (THE ELDER BROTHER OF SEIJURO, TAKAMICHI'S CURRENT FIANCÉ)

OUR DEADLY WORK WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THEIR AID.

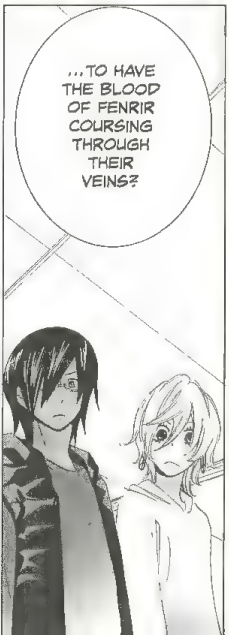
HA HA ...

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK THE SAME THING!!!
ARE THOSE THE TWINS RUMORED...
NEKOZANE CLAN ASSISTANT CORPSE DISPOSAL AND ODD JOBS UNIT
SUKETORA CLAN FAMILY HEAD

SHIRATORI CLAN ASSISTANT CORPSE DISPOSAL AND ODD JOBS UNIT
YAGYU CLAN FAMILY HEAD
...YOUNG MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
...IS THAT THEM?
OH!

I HAD NO IDEA...
...THEY WERE SUCH DELICATE CHILDREN.
HE LOOKS ANNOYED...
I EXPECTED THEM TO BE BIG STRONG MEN— LIKE MOON.

LOOKS LIKE EVEN ORDINARY HUMAN MINIONS WOULD BE MORE USEFUL THAN...
..."MIXED BLOODS" LIKE THEM!
TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION... YES.


...TO HAVE THE BLOOD OF FENRIR COURSING THROUGH THEIR VEINS?

HA HA ...

...!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY, HEBITSUKA?!

NOTH NG.

HACHIOJI CLAN
ASSISTANT
CORPSE DISPOSAL
AND ODD JOBS JNIT

HEB.TSUKA CLAN
FAMILY HEAD

...AND NIGHT. SNOW ...

THESE ARE MY JIJI JIJI.

GRIP

GRIP

GRIP

MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I LAST SET EYES UPON MY GRANDCHILDREN... THEY SEEM WELL. MY MIND IS AT EASE.

A... RABBIT?

OH. A RABBIT.

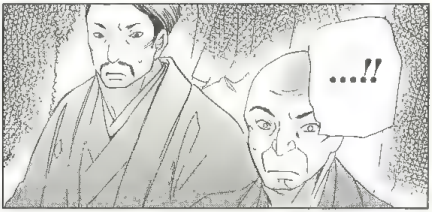
TWITCH

TWITCH TWITCH

MAY I GO NOW?
WAIT!
YOU HAVEN'T EXPLAINED YOUR TARDINESS YET!

I SAID I WAS...
...SORRY...
...DIDN'T I?

WELL, THIS CERTAINLY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES ...


...!!

WHAT WISDOM COULD A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD POSSIBLY HAVE TO OFFER US?

THAT'S UNFAIR.

EXACTLY.

YOUNG MASTER TAKAYUKI'S ATTENDANCE ...

...AT THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING TEN YEARS AGO.

MTTR

I'M NOT GONNA PREACH...

...TO YOU LIKE SOME KINDA ORACLE.

I MEAN ...

YOU ENJOY A HIGHER STATUS THAN ALL THE REST OF US HUNTERS...

MIGHT WE BESEECH YOU TO OFFER US A WORD OR TWO OF ADVICE?

...ALL OF YOU ARE LOUSY WORTHLESS KILLERS, RIGHT?

MMPH...
GRIN GRIN
...
Granted...
...THIS ISN'T AS SHOCKING AS HIS LITTLE SPEECH BACK THEN...
BUT... SHE DOES REMIND ME A LOT OF HIM.
ARE YOU HIGHER RANKING THAN ALL THESE PEOPLE?
PRETTY MUCH.
HEY...
...TAKAMICHI!

...THAT'S OVERLY SIMPLIFIED.

I LIKE YOUR STYLE, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI, BUT...

The Hachioj* family split up into seven clans.

Iron c, huh?

LIKE THIS...

TAP

...TO SIMPLIFY...

ALLOW ME...

MISS TAKAMICHI'S HUNTER FAMILY TREE

*"HACHIOJI" CONTAINS THE KANJI FOR "8"

BUT THEY STILL HAD TO FACE THESE MONSTERS. MONSTERS CONTINUED TO APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE. AT TIMES THEY WERE EVEN MORE INTELLIGENT THAN HUMANS. THE GOVERNMENT DIDN'T WANT THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO KNOW OF THE EXISTENCE OF THESE MYSTERIOUS CREATURES... SO THEY ENTRUSTED THE HACHIOJI CLAN WITH THEIR EXTERMINATION. EVENTUALLY, THE LEADER OF THE HACHIOJI CLAN DECIDED TO SPLIT THE CLAN INTO EIGHT GROUPS TO BETTER MANAGE THE OPERATIVES AND IMPROVE THEIR EFFICACY, ASSIGNING A FAMILY HEAD TO EACH CLAN. HE PLACED TWO CLANS IN CHARGE OF HUNTING AND MONSTER HANDLING IN THE KANTO, TOHOKU AND SOUTHWEST REGIONS. AND HE PLACED TWO FAMILIES IN CHARGE OF RECOGNIZANCE IN THE EAST AND WEST. THAT WAY, THE CLANS WERE FREE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND...

THE EXTENDED VERSION OF THE HISTORY OF THE EIGHT CLANS?

HEAR U WHAT U ...?

YOU WANT TO HEAR IT?

BLAH BLAH BLAH

A LONG TIME AGO... WHEN MONSTERS ROAMED THE LAND AND HURT PEOPLE, A BRAVE YOUNG MAN STOOD UP TO PROTECT THEM. THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE HACHIOJI FAMILY AND THE HUNTER CLANS. AS TIME PASSED, TECHNOLOGY EVOLVED AND HUMANS UNRAVELED MANY MYSTERIES—

WAIT ...!

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI! THIS VERSION IS *TOO* LONG!

I'm sorry, but...

HOLD ON A SEC!

Lots of work for my editor!

THERE MUST BE A BETTER WAY TO SUMMARIZE IT!
I think.
WELL, YES... NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DIDN'T WANT TO EXPLAIN IT THOROUGHLY AT FIRST, BUT...
SEE ?!
OKAY, BASICALLY THE EIGHT CLANS USED TO BE ONE HUGE CLAN.
HEBITSUKA
SONMA
NEKOZANE
SHIRATORI
SUKSAGRA
YAGYU
WASHITAKE
HACHIOJI
WE SPLIT UP INTO EIGHT CLANS TO HANDLE A WIDER AREA.
SINCE THE FAMILY HEAD OF THE ORIGINAL CLAN WAS A HACHIOJI, WE NATURALLY BECAME THE HEAD OF ALL EIGHT OF THE NEW CLANS.
To be exact, our family name changed to Hachioji when we split into eight.
RANKED BELOW US ARE THE FAMILY HEADS OF THE SEVEN CLANS AND THEIR HEIRS.
MY EX-FIANCÉ IS ONE OF THEM.
Hachioji Clan Family Head
↑
Family Head of the Seven Clans
↑
Family members of each of the clans
↑
Branch Family
THEN COME THE MEMBERS OF THOSE CLANS WHO AREN'T HEIRS
↓
THE BRANCH FAMILIES LIKE THAT.
↓
AND THE KIDS OF THOSE BRANCH FAMILIES.

WHAT ABOUT US?

...ARE RANKED ACCORDING TO THE PERSON YOU SERVE.

You two...

THAT'LL CHANGE WHEN HE MARRIES INTO THE HACHIOJI CLAN AND BECOMES THE HUSBAND OF A FAMILY HEAD.

...FOR NOW.

But that's never happened before... so I'm not sure how it works out exactly...

HIS RANK IS LOWER THAN MIKA NEKOZANE.

PHEW

WHAT ABOUT THAT SEIJURO SHIRATORI GUY?

HE'S THE SECOND SON OF THE SHIRATORI CLAN...

SO HE'S LOWER THAN THE FAMILY HEADS OF THE SEVEN CLANS— BUT HIGHER THAN ANYONE IN A BRANCH FAMILY.

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND...?

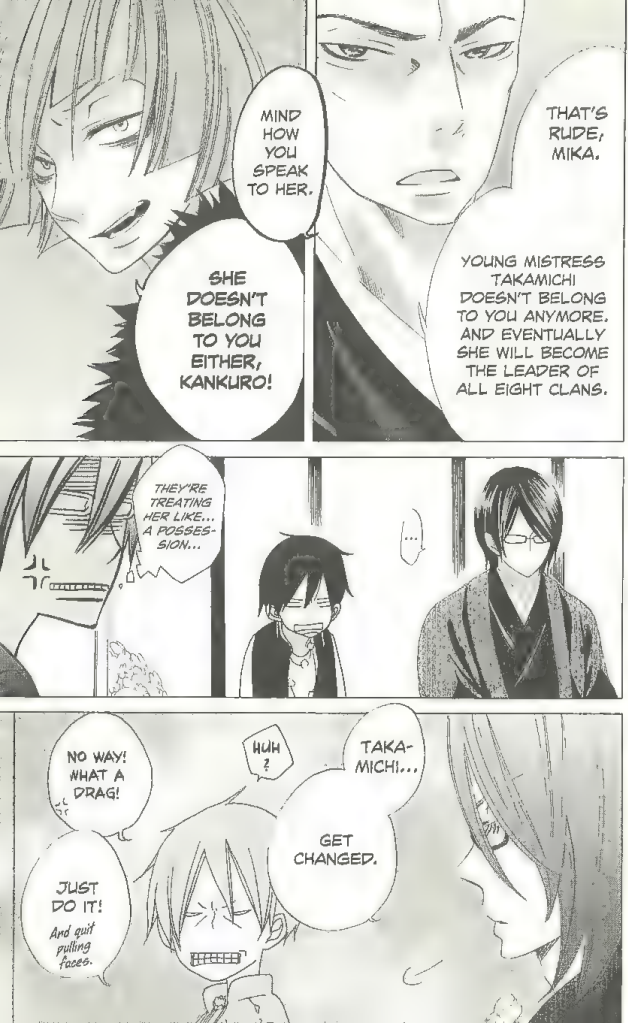
Impossible!

YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO ATTEND THE BANQUET IN THOSE FILTHY RAGS ARE YOU?

HEY...

SO WE'RE HIGH STATUS TOO!

...


THAT'S RUDE, MIKA.
YOUNG MISTRESS TAKAMICHI DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU ANYMORE. AND EVENTUALLY SHE WILL BECOME THE LEADER OF ALL EIGHT CLANS.
MIND HOW YOU SPEAK TO HER.
SHE DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU EITHER, KANKURO!
THEY'RE TREATING HER LIKE... A POSSES-SION...
...
TAKA-MICHI...
HUH ?
GET CHANGED.
NO WAY! WHAT A DRAG!
JUST DO IT!
And quit pulling faces.

GO, NIGHT!

!

SNOW!

YOU TOO!

OKAY...

Phew.

IRK

IRK

IRK

PLEASE GO AHEAD AND BEGIN...

WE MAY START EATING WITHOUT THEM.

I feel left out...

WH...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SNOW?!

LAUGH.

AH HA HA HA

IRK

IRK

?!

SHV FLMP

?!

YOUNG MISTRESS TAKAMICHI !!

Questions.

Okay, here are some of the questions I've received~

How old is Takamichi's father?

Hyogo Prefecture: Asami

Takamichi's father (AKA Shuren Hachio,) appears every now and then in this volume, but he remains rather mysterious, doesn't he? As for his age, hmm, let's say 40

① Meru's earring looks like a cross. Is it okay for a vampire to wear a cross?

② All the classmates in *Jiu Jiu* have an animal in their names, don't they?

Nagasaki Prefecture: Kuro

(Forgive me for my rudeness in misreading your name before !! I'm terribly sorry!! I suspect I do that a lot! Apologies to everyone whose name I've gotten wrong!

① → The cross? Well, that's part of his training (I just made that up.)

② → That's right! Every body except the Hachios have an animal in their last name ^^

I was being a bit playful Asami and Kuro, thank you very much!

GRAB
SINCE YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE, I'M GOING TO REALLY TAKE MY TIME DRESSING YOU!!
LADY'S MAID
I TOLD YOU TO RETURN BY EARLY EVENING, DIDN'T I...?
YES! I CERTAINLY DID!
!!

SNOW AND NIGHT... PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HIGH-RANKING ...?
AH HA HA HA
YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET YOUR TARDINESS, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!!
TEE HEE HEE

Aieee! And why do your stupid boobs keep growing like crazy!
Why do you refuse to wear a bra?
I'll tie 'em down with something later. Squeeze them into submi...
"Stupid" ...?!
!!

IRK IRK

THAT SEIJURO GUY...

...WON'T EVEN *LOOK* AT MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!

IRK

What's with that guy...?

IRK

THERE'S NO REASON TO...

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO ACCEPT HIM...!

CAN YOU BELIEVE A MAN LIKE THAT IS MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S *FIANCÉ*?

...
ACCEPT
...
...
HIM.

ARGH!!!
SNOW
...
...
ooo
I CAN'T DO MY BUTTONS !!

YEP, IT'S FINE!

ALL I'VE GOT LEFT TO DO IS EAT, HAVE A BATH, TAKE A NAP-

HERE. LET ME DO THEM FOR YOU!

...

...SNOW.

Can we come in yet?

Why do we hafta wear a suit?

I MUST HAVE IMAGINED THAT...

YOU ARE THE FACE OF THE HACHIOJI CLAN! I WILL FORCE YOU TO DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THIS OCCASION- AND ATTEND IT!

OUT OF THE QUESTION!!

SHLOOP

Or else...

Is that what you want?!

MASTER SEIJURO WILL LOSE INTEREST IN YOU!

WHAT THE-?
HE'S NEVER BEEN INTERESTED IN ME...
...FROM THE STAR...
NIGHT ...!
HUH?

Tee hee hee.

LOOK AT HIM!

HE'S AT A LOSS FOR WORDS!!

How weird!!

STOP IT!

YOU LOOK SO PRETTY. SO PRETTY.

TAKAMICHI!

Nooo! Her makeup!!

AH, SNOW...

The belt...!

HOW DO WE PULL HIM OFF OF HER WITHOUT RUINING HER MAKEUP?!

Oh my!

PANIC

PANIC

The Family Head Meeting

..has basically turned into a big feast

In the beginning, I was going to fit all of volume 3 inside the 50 pages of Chapter 12

Um I don't think that's possible

And guy

My editor

Me

No? Yes, think no!?

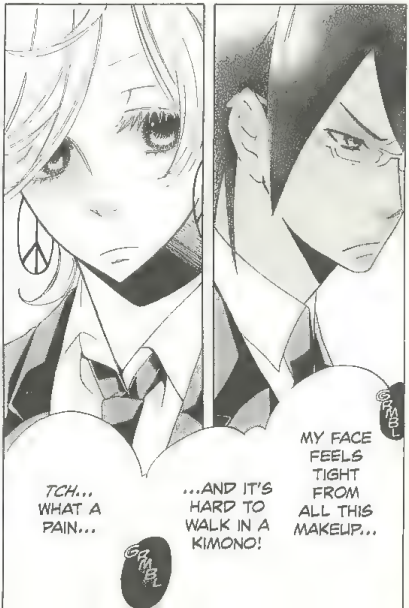
And so I got to relax and take my time with the story

Most of all I was happy to get to draw Takayuki over and over in Chapter 14

And then I was going to write all kinds of stuff about the Family Head Meeting But I forgot what I was going to say So I'll skip that part

Oh and I've very briefly hinted at Snow and Night's true identities Will I reveal more in the future? Keep your eyes peeled

← My dog



HOW COME ...

...THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING IS SO CLOSE TO A FULL MOON?

...USING YOU "HYBRIDS" AS OUR MINIONS...

...IS STILL RELATIVELY NEW.

THIS WHOLE SYSTEM OF...

HEY...

... TAKA-MICHI!

THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF THINGS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...AND THERE ARE CLANS WHO DON'T APPROVE OF THE PRACTICE.
AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE...
YOU TWO—
—A JIU JIU'S STATUS—
—IS AS HIGH AS THE ONE THEY SERVE—

THE TRUTH IS, YOUR STATUS IS BELOW EVEN THE CHILDREN OF THE BRANCH FAMILIES.

BUT IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO ME... YOU'D BE PUT TO DEATH IMMEDIATELY.

AH.

..."MIXED BLOODS" LIKE THEM!

LOOKS LIKE EVEN ORDINARY HUMAN MINIONS WOULD BE MORE USEFUL THAN...

I'LL PROTECT YOU!

...

THEY'RE TESTING US, AREN'T THEY?

I'LL PROTECT YOU BOTH FROM THEM.

...KEEP YOUR PROMISE TO US, TAKAMICHI.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS...

Shut up! I'll protect you!

OH WELL. LET'S GO SIT AT THE BRANCH FAMILY'S TABLE THEN.

THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT TO SIT...

I'm starved!

KLTR

KLTR

WHAT'S THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S A CHANCE TO BINGE...
YOU MEAN FOR GROWN-UPS TO GET DRUNK?
MIKA NEKOZANE AND THAT MAN...
...THEY WERE SO UNFRIENDLY TO EACH OTHER BEFORE— BUT NOW...?
SLRP
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT ...
AND NOW MIKA IS POURING SAKE FOR THE ELDER SHIRATORI BROTHER.
NO. THAT'S MIKA'S JIJI JIJI...
...WHITE.

MR. MOON!

THAT IDIOT FATHER OF YOURS IS GONNA FIND ME IF YOU RAISE YOUR VOICE LIKE THAT, YOU BRAT!!

SHUT UP!!

HIYA.

!!

PAPER MOON!!

And stop calling me that name !!

Stay away from me!

TAKAMICHI'S FATHER'S JIU JIU

MOON OKAMI

AND QUIT SAYING THAT EVERY TIME YOU SEE ME.

PUNY AS ALWAYS, I SEE.

HEY THERE, SNOW...

M-Mistress Takamichi...

You're just big!

HE'S A HYBRID BETWEEN A TRANSFORMING FOX AND A SICKLE WEASEL. I DON'T THINK HE HAS A HUMAN FORM OF HIS OWN...

The only person he can transform into is his master.

HOW COME HE LOOKS LIKE MIKA?

"WHITE" AS IN... *THAT* WHITE?

White with red fur

Agh! You're crushing him...

SO WHERE'S MIKA?
SIP
I DON'T LIKE...
BLAH
BLAH
...MIXED BLOODS.
BLIP BLIP
MIKA...
...DOESN'T ENJOY OCCASIONS LIKE THIS.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SERVANT, MASTER KANKURO...?

WE'RE AT A FEAST.

DON'T WORRY...

TRMBL

GLUP

GLUP

TRMBL

TRMBL

...

HUH?

FLMP

MR. MOON

...

WOULD YOU PLEASE RELEASE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...?

UM...

Okay.

BUT KEEP HER ON A SHORT LEASH.

She's so noisy.

Do you have any idea how bad your father gets when he's drunk?!
Shut the hell up!
You stupid mutt. Go away!!
And don't ever come back.
Don't touch me!
DON'T THEY LIKE EACH OTHER?
WHY CAN'T THEY GET ALONG?
SHOUT
Scratch
SH
UV
WHUD
FAp
Bat!
I KNOW ...
...
... YOU'VE BEEN ...
...VISITING HIM EVERY NOW AND THEN SINCE YOU WERE PUPS...
SEE VOLS. 1 AND 2
DOG MEETING
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!
Woof
Woof

YOU GUYS SURE ARE BUTT LICKERS.

Not that I care.

But you're our favorite, Takamichi.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE TESTED, HUH...?

HOW COME YOU AREN'T BY YOUR MASTER'S SIDE ANYWAY?

WELL DONE, SNOW.

YOU'RE A CLEVER ONE.

But that's not the reason I'm avoiding him...

AH.

YOU NOTICED, HUH?

BE CAREFUL.
...CAN'T WAIT FOR AN EXCUSE TO SLAY US MIXED BLOODS.
YAGYU AND...
...
WASHITAKE
...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!!
Washitake...?
POP
?

!

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!

...FOR MY SEIJURO.

PLEASE POUR SOME SAKE...

...

RIPPLE

...

MASTER SEIJURO IS STILL UNDERAGE- LIKE MASTER MIKA.

UNDERAGE DRINKING AND SMOKING ARE A NO-NO IN *SHOJO BEAT* COMICS, YOU KNOW!

IS IT OKAY TO GIVE HIM SAKE...?

It's against the law...

STOP IT, RIPPLE.
I'VE GOT NO REASON TO LOOK AT HER.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE HER THAT BADLY...
...JUST ...
...DON'T ...
...EVER SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE AGAIN!

...

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME, MOON?

What the...?

WHAT A PAIN IN THE...

HMM...

Scanner: Silver Ame

Why'd you leave me? I was so...

AN ARMREST ISN'T SUPPOSED TO RUN AWAY AND COMPLAIN ABOUT ITS FATE, IS IT? HRM...

NNGH.

HE FOUND ME!

...Lonely...

YOU'RE MY ARMREST, REMEMBER?

Come on, laugh!
Laugh, I said!
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT "THE TAILOR MAKES THE MAN" MEANS.
EH.?
You're using him as a chair!
Don't go near him.
Sat upon
SEI...
He'll turn you into another armrest.
Mr. Moon...
CERTAINLY NOT!
...

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI IS BEAUTIFUL EVEN WITHOUT THE FANCY CLOTHES AND MAKEUP.

NNGH

COME NOW. THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SELF-CONSCIOUS.

Of course she's beautiful. She's my daughter.

THANK YOU, BUT...

HERE. HAVE SOME.

...I'M NOT TOO FOND OF SPIRITS.

YOU'VE REACHED LEGAL DRINKING AGE, HAVEN'T YOU?

SORRY TO INTRUDE...

BUT...

ARE YOU REFUSING TO DRINK THE SAKE OF THE MAN WHO IS TO BE...
...YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW?
I said- drink.
...
JUST ONE SIP THEN...
Come on, drink. Drink!
!
That does it!
COME ON. DRINK. MORE.
I want to go back to my room with Snow and Night!
GLUP GLUP
You know what? HE'S DROWNING.
You're one mean father and daughter duo.
AH HA HA HA HA
GLUP GLUP
TAKAMICHI...
Yoo hoo!
GULP...
BLUP BLUP
GLUG...

TABOO

It's taboo! Taboo!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! SNOW'S ONLY THREE YEARS OLD!

BUT MOON IS TH RTEEN YEARS OLD...

HEY !!

Paper Moon.

RIP-PLE!!

What ...?

WHAT ARE YOU DRIN...

SNOW !!

... like ...

Feelsh ...

...I'm floating.

Left leg

WHY WEREN'T YOU KEEPING AN EYE ON SNOW?!

SHUD

?!

DER

WHAT ...?

HOW AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR SNOW'S ACTIONS?!

HE'S UNDER-AGE!!

SNOW IS STILL ONLY 17- EVEN GOING BY CAT YEARS!!

YOJ'RE WRONG. HE'S ALMOST FOUR YEARS O_D- THAT MAKES HIM 32.

HUH ?

Idiot.

IN CAT YEARS, I'M WELL PAST 60.

Oh, quit bluffing.

NIGHT!

BUD BUD

GUG GUG

AND HOW COME YOU'RE COUNTING BY CAT YEARS ANYWAY?!
HMMM...
GETTIN' HOT IN HERE...
RRP
GLARE
Agh!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ADVERTISE THAT YOU'RE A NUDIST!!
?!
GLUP GLUP
GLUP

SHE IS A HAWK !!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF SNOW. ♡

HYY

HA HA HA HA HA

PREDATOR

SHE'S GOT THE EYE OF A HAWK...

Thish ish fun.

HA HA

HA HA

WUP

NIGHT!

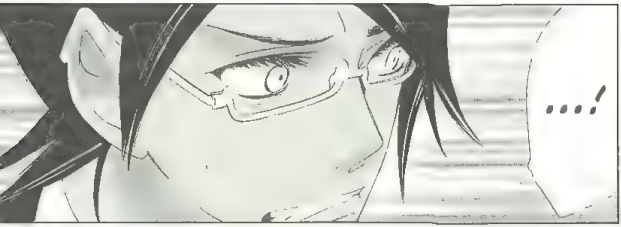
GO AFTER THOSE TWO!!

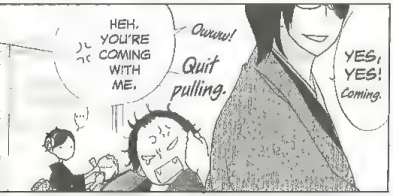
Save Snow from that hawk!

GULP

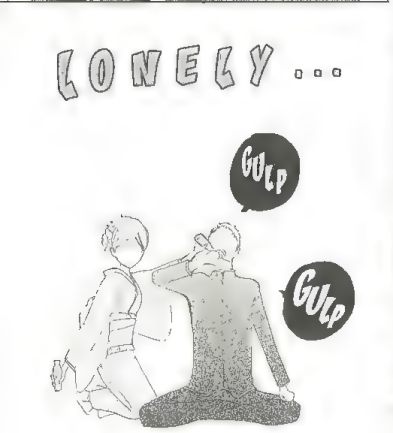
AND YOU TAKE CARE OF MASTER SEIJURO FOR ME, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.

.....


...!


HEH. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
Ouuuu!
Quit pulling.
YES, YES! Coming.

STUPID SNOW.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
Soon as he passes out.
SPLASH
GULP GULP
SPLASH
HEY, SHUREN!
Over here.


LONELY ...
GULP
GULP

DRINK SOME MORE.

...

I'M NOT DRUNK.

...MY DETERMINATION IS WEAKENED...
...BY YOUR PROXIMITY.
I VOWED TO MYSELF...
...THAT I WOULDN'T LAY A FINGER ON YOU...
...UNTIL THE BETROTHAL GIFTS WERE EXCHANGED.
BUT...

I DON'T CARE WHERE WE ARE ...

...OR WHO SEES US...

I CANNOT RESTRAIN MYSELF...
...FROM HOLDING YOU IN MY ARMS.
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...

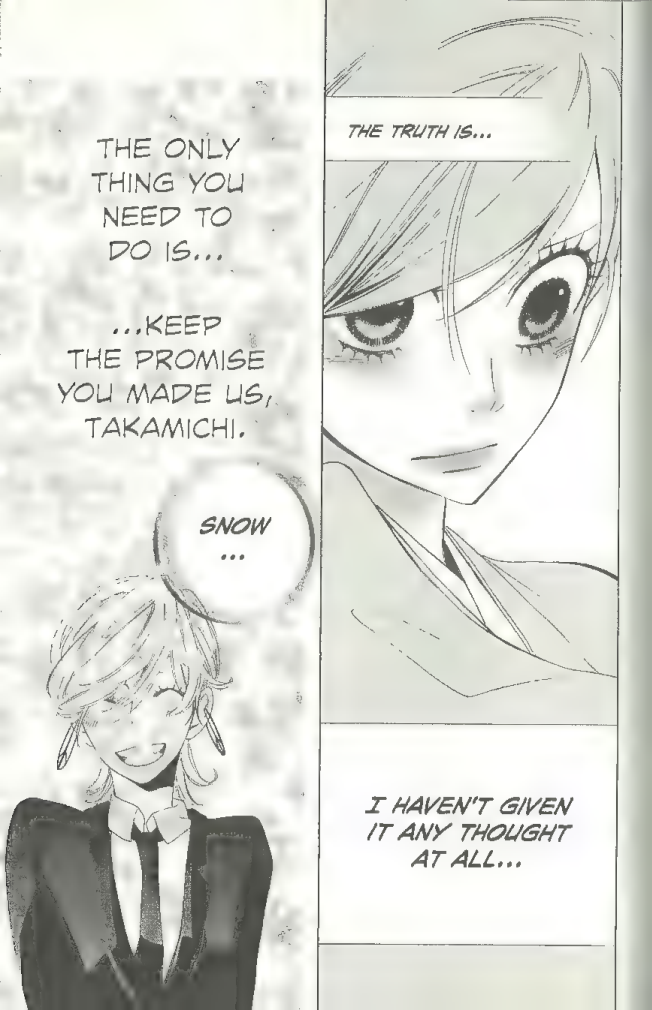
I HAVEN'T ACCEPTED IT.

I HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND.

DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU THAT...

...YOU HAVE TO MARRY THAT GUY?

NIGHT ...


THE TRUTH IS...
I HAVEN'T GIVEN IT ANY THOUGHT AT ALL...
THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO DO IS...
...KEEP THE PROMISE YOU MADE US, TAKAMICHI.
SNOW ...

YOU KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT ME...

MY STATUS... MY ENVIRON-MENT...

Y-YOU HAVE ...

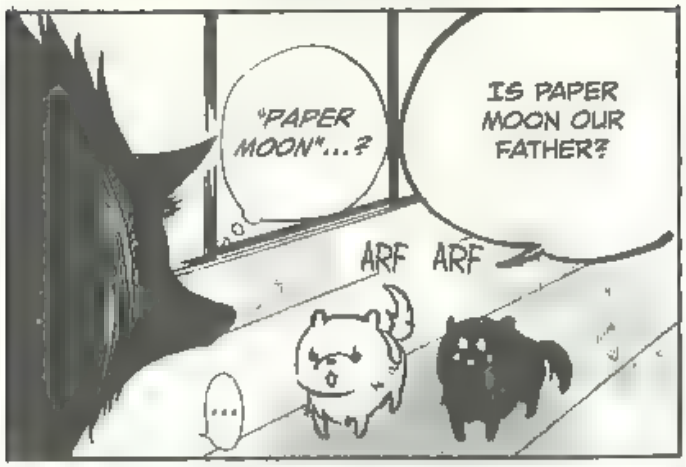
...NO RIGHT TO TAKE LIBERTIES WITH ME!

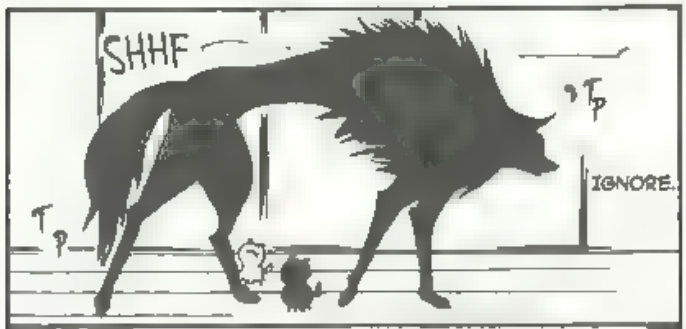
...EVERY-THING'S CHANGING SO FAST.

...CARE-FREE YOUR BOSS HAS BEEN...

AND HOW...

SUSPICION





TAKAMICHI ENCOUNTERS THE OTHER

HEH. LIKE PEAS IN A POD...
YOU MAY CALL ME MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
WHAT A BRAT.
YOU'RE AN UNDER-AGE OLD MAN!
Forget it.
I'll put you in your place.
"BRAT" SUITS YOU FINE.
INCOMPATIBLE!
YOU'VE GOT A NERVE LOOKING DOWN AT ME, YOU OLD GEEZER!
WHIRR WHIRR

WALK 14: THE BLACK CAT AND THE DUCKLING

NIGHT!

SAVE SNOW!

...

I HAVE TO SAVE SNOW FROM THAT CROW...

...AND GET BACK TO MISTRESS TAKAMICHI AS SOON AS I CAN!

TUP
I HAVEN'T ACCEPTED IT...
SNOW...?
WHOOP
TPPA
I HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND.
SORRY ...
... NIGHT.

HAVEN'T GIVEN IT ANY THOUGHT AT ALL.

Y-YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TAKE LIBERTIES WITH ME!

I...

PLEASE ...
I'M SORRY.
...FORGIVE ME FOR HAVING FEELINGS FOR YOU.
...FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU... TEN YEARS AGO...
I WAS ATTRACTED TO YOUR STRENGTH...
... AND I ...

SWEEP

NEW MEMBER

NEW MEMBER

I'M THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD FAMILY, THE HACHIOJI CLAN...

MY NAME'S TAKAMICHI.

BOW

NICE TO MEET YOU.

AND I'M THE HEIR TO THE NEKOZANE CLAN...

...MASTER MIKA.

YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE REST.
PSST
GO RIGHT ON...
...KISSING UP TO EVERYONE.
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.
I DON'T CARE WHO I MARRY AS LONG AS SHE BEARS ME AN HEIR.
PLEASE EXCUSE US...

HMM...
SHE JUST NEEDS A LITTLE PUSH.
TOO BAD.
DUMMY!
A LITTLE PUSH.
TAKA-YUKI!
BONK
ACK

TA-TUM
SHAA
...
MIKA NEKO-ZANE !!
DROP DEAD !!
!
HUF
HUF

SWISH

HOW DARE A GIRL SPEAK TO HIM LIKE THAT ...!

YOU'LL BE SORRY!

SPLASH

...YOU UGLY BITCH!
DROP DEAD...
!
...MARRY YOU AND BE YOUR WIFE!
SPLASH
I WON'T ...
YOU'RE BREAKING OFF THE ENGAGE-MENT?
WHAT?
WAAAH

NO, I DO NOT!!

YOU LIKE CATS, DON'T YOU, MICHI?

HE'S GOING TO BE A REALLY INTERESTING GUY— IF YOU CAN TAME HIM.

...MARRY A GUY LIKE THAT!

I WON'T EVER ...

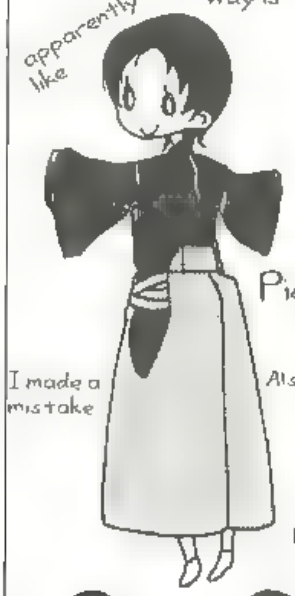
DID YOU SEE HOW NERVOUS HE WAS? LIKE A BLACK CAT.

HM...

(Yes, this is a flashback.)

I drew the hakama totally wrong.

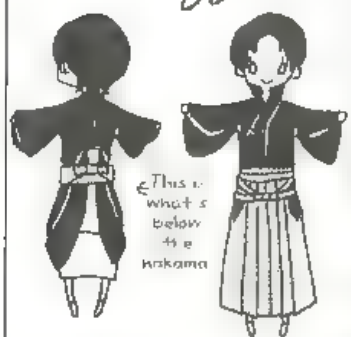
The correct way is apparently like



Pick up

I made a mistake

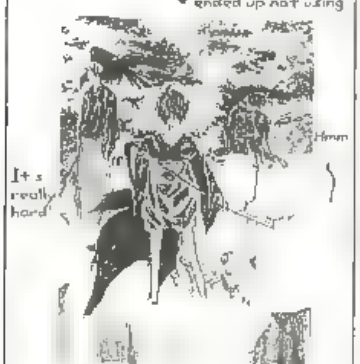
Also



This is what's below the hakama

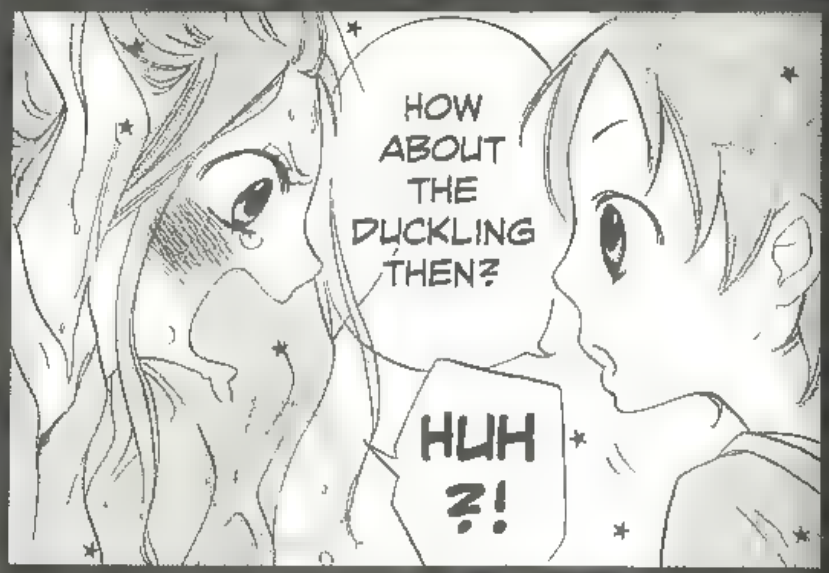
I actually drew the three of them wearing kimono for the cover illustration but something didn't look right. When I checked, I realized I'd drawn the hakama wrong again. So I gave up.

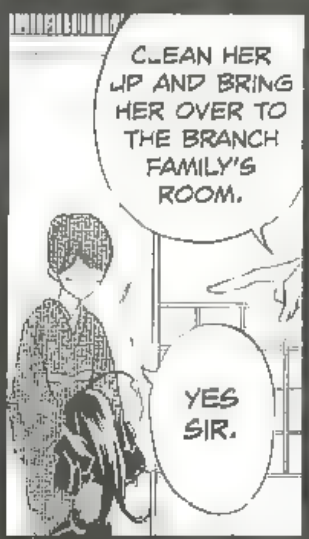
The illustration I ended up not using



To tell the truth, I'm bored of drawing kimono.

They're so hard to draw!





HE'S NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY CHILD OF THAT AGE.

AH, HOW THE HACHIOJI CLAN HAS FALLEN...

!

Huh?

SEIJURO...

YOU'RE TOO CLOSE.

I'M BORED.
BY THE WAY...
WE'RE DOING EVERY-THING IN OUR POWER TO FIND IT.
YOU'VE ALREADY HAD AN ESCAPE!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT YOURS- THE ONE OF FENR R ANCES-TRY?
I'M REALLY SORRY...
...BIG BROTHER.
...WHAT DOES YOUNG MASTER TAKAYUKI HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT?
IT'S ABSURD TO HAVE A MIXED BLOOD AS YOUR MINION!
THEY AREN'T TRUST-WORTHY!
THERE ARE ONES THAT CAN BE TRUSTED.
YES, WHAT?
MIGHT WE BESEECH YOU TO OFFER US A WORD OR TWO OF ADVICE?
That's unfair.
Exactly.
WHAT WISDOM COULD A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD POSSIBLY HAVE TO OFFER US?

...

HOW DARE YOU CALL US WORTH-LESS!!

AND DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH IT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CH ..D!

LET'S GO, MICHI!

Please, calm down...

BOMB DROP

...ALL OF YOU ARE LOUSY WORTHLESS KILLERS, RIGHT?

I MEAN ...

I'M NOT GONNA PREACH TO YOU LIKE SOME KINDA ORACLE.

...WE IGNORANT CHILDREN WILL JUST HAVE TO RUN OUTSIDE AND PLAY!

GRRR—

SHAA

WELL THEN...

...
HE GOT AWAY...!!
HEY...
HE TOOK OFF...
HE RAN AWAY.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU CALLED THOSE WORTHLESS PEOPLE WORTHLESS!
I'M JUST A KID...
STUPID OLD DAD WAS STARING DAGGERS AT US, YOU KNOW.
WEIRD.
SWEPTBACK HAIR
PFFT
DID YOU SEE THAT OLD GUY'S HAIRDO ...?
YEAH!
HE'S TRYING SO HARD TO LOOK TOUGH SO NO ONE THINKS HE'S A PUSHOVER. WHAT A DORK.
HEE HEE HEE
HE'S THE GROWN-UP.
HE'LL HANDLE IT SOMEHOW.
...
GRR!
DORK!!
DORK!!

BMP

OOPS.

!

THEY'VE STARTED DRINKING.

DORK

...?

YOU MUST BE BORED OUT OF YOUR MIND IN HERE.

WHICH CLAN DO YOU HAIL FROM?

MASTER YAGYU ...!

I'M SORR-

HUH?

Okay...

WHY DON'T YOU RUN ALONG AND PLAY OUTSIDE.

AH! YOU'RE ONE OF THE BRANCH FAMILY'S KIDS, HUH?

GRAB
MOVE ASIDE, MOVE ASIDE!
RESIST
RESIST
...
NOOO!
ROLL
ROLL
ROL
AH
WHOOSH

UM, YOUNG MASTER TAKAYUKI...?

...

...DUCKLING!

Most people would have tried to catch me.

NICE MOVE...

GLOOMP

?

IT'S REALLY HOT FOR OCTOBER, ISN'T IT?

I WAS PLAYING IN THE RIVER DOWN THERE!

OH!

Ok, I'm sorry-

...?

"D-D...

...DUCKLING"?!

SEIJURO!

COME WITH ME!

COME ON. DON'T BE A DRAG.
YEAH, OF COURSE.
YOU KNOW MY—
THE BABY SWAN.*
YOU'RE THE UGLY DUCKLING, RIGHT?
DUCKLING ...
* SE JURO'S LAST NAME SHIRATORI CAN BE READ AS "SWAN."

THAT'S SO...

...MEAN.

YOU'RE FILTHY.

YUKI!

WHAT TOOK YOU SO...

SORRY

SO I'M TELLING YOU NOW... YOU BETTER BEHAVE LIKE A PROPER GIRL...
I'M GONNA MARRY YOU- 'CAUSE I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
...SO YOU WON'T EMBARRASS ME!
SLLK
AH HA HA HA!
HE'S PICKING A FIGHT WITH MICHI AGAIN.
...
LOOK! SEIJURO!
IS SHE GONNA STAB HIM...?! Is she?!
Oh no...
SHE PULLED A KNIFE ON HIM! See?
FWFF
IF SHE DOES...

IF YOU WANT TO BE MY MAN...

...GO AHEAD AND TRY TO GET ME TO BEHAVE LIKE A PROPER GIRL.

DIDJA SEE THAT, SEIJURO?

HA HA HA

MY OTHER HALF...

...IS AWFULLY FUNNY, ISN'T SHE?!

She's so stupid!

SHE'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.
NOT AT ALL ...
SHE'S ...
HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR HER?!
GRIN
B-B...
... BUT I...
BLUSH
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI IS BETROTHED TO MASTER MIKA, THE HEIR OF THE NEKOZANE CLAN...!
IF NOT FOR ME, MICHI'S...
...FUTURE HUSBAND WOULD BE ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY.

IF I DIE, TAKAMICHI...

SEIJURO ...

MASTER TAKAYUKI ...?

...IS YOURS.

WHAT THE ...?

Hey!

HEY...

SPLAAAASH

HA HA HA!
SHE JUST PUSHED THE HEIR INTO THE RIVER!
WHY YOU ...!
BITCH.
Scanner: Silver Ame
DIE.
SPLASH
ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE COMING IN TOO!!
Young
Master
Tōta
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

Take that!

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CATCH UP TO YOU EVER SINCE THAT DAY.

I WAS DRAWN TO YOUR ENERGY, YOUR STRENGTH...

...AND HOW UNDAUNTED YOU WERE BY ALL THE HARDSHIPS THAT COME WITH YOUR HOME LIFE AND SOCIAL STATUS.

I'VE NEVER ...
WHEN I HEARD THAT MASTER TAKAYUKI...
...
...WAS KILLED, I WAS VERY UPSET...
BUT AT THE SAME TIME...
...I COULDN'T HELP FEELING EXCITED AT THE THOUGHT THAT... YOU...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

SLAM

You want a piece of me?

HEY...

MMP

fo

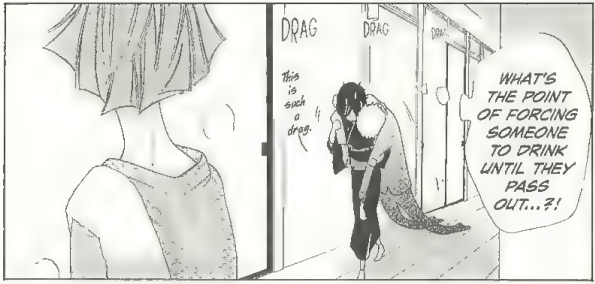
I'VE...

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!

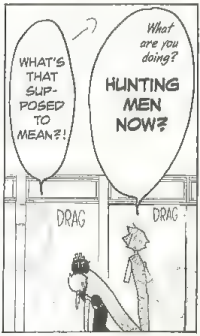
Mp

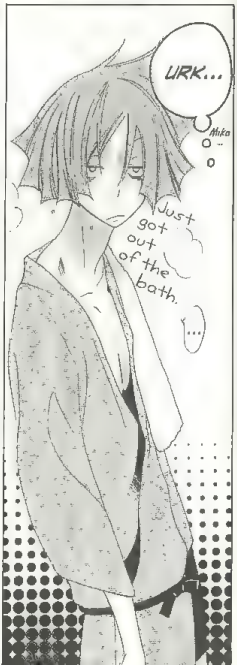
SLUMP

DRAG ... DRAG ..


DRAG
DRAG
This is such a drag.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF FORCING SOMEONE TO DRINK UNTIL THEY PASS OUT...?!

TMP


WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
What are you doing?
HUNTING MEN NOW?
DRAG
DRAG


URK...
Mika
Just got out of the bath.
...

WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN ON ME WHEN YOU'RE ACTUALLY LOOKING UP AT ME...?
HEY.
HELP ME...
Yerk!

LET HIM.

DON'T BE STUPID.

WHAT IF HE CROAKS OR SOMETHING ...?

JUST DUMP HIM SOMEWHERE.

FWUP

DRAG... DRAG... DRAG DRAG

I know I'm giving away the story, but
I'm Ripple.
I'm White.
You weasel-ly fox.
I'm not a crow. How many times do I have to tell you that?
Your kanji is really hard to read, you know that, Crow?
The name's RIPPLE!
Hey, I thought you couldn't speak in that form.
Would you please stop calling me that?
It's not even four panels anymore... Hey, you just tried to change the subject, didn't you?
Anyway... This four-panel manga is all over the place, isn't it...?
Jiu Jiu vol 4 coming soon!
Didn't you?!
Look for it!
My dog
FWUP
WHICH ROOM?
...AND WHERE CAN I ...FIND ONE OF THOSE?!
DUNNO. ANY OPEN ROOM.
FWU
M
P

I'M GONNA HOLD A PILLOW OVER HIS FACE...

DID YOU...

...THINK ABOUT IT?

ABOUT YOUR FIANCÉE?

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...

HUH?

...

DID YOU EVER...

...THINK OF ME?

ARE YOU CRAZY?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
...AND WHEN IT BECAME HIM.
BACK WHEN IT WAS YOU...
I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT EITHER...

...

YOU'RE...

...TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.
SHUTTING THAT LOUD MOUTH OF YOURS...
...TURNED OUT...

SPTTR

...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
...
TRK
WHERE'S RIPPLE ...?
SNOW.
WHERE'S ...
... NIGHT?!

WHERE IS NIGHT?!

SNOW ...!!

ANSWER ME!!

SAY SOME-THING ...!
SNOW !!
SHF
Who's yelling?
Sounds like Young Mistress Takamichi...
!

"WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

WHAT I WANTED TO PROTECT...

...WAS INSIDE A PITCH-BLACK MIXTURE OF TEN COLORS.

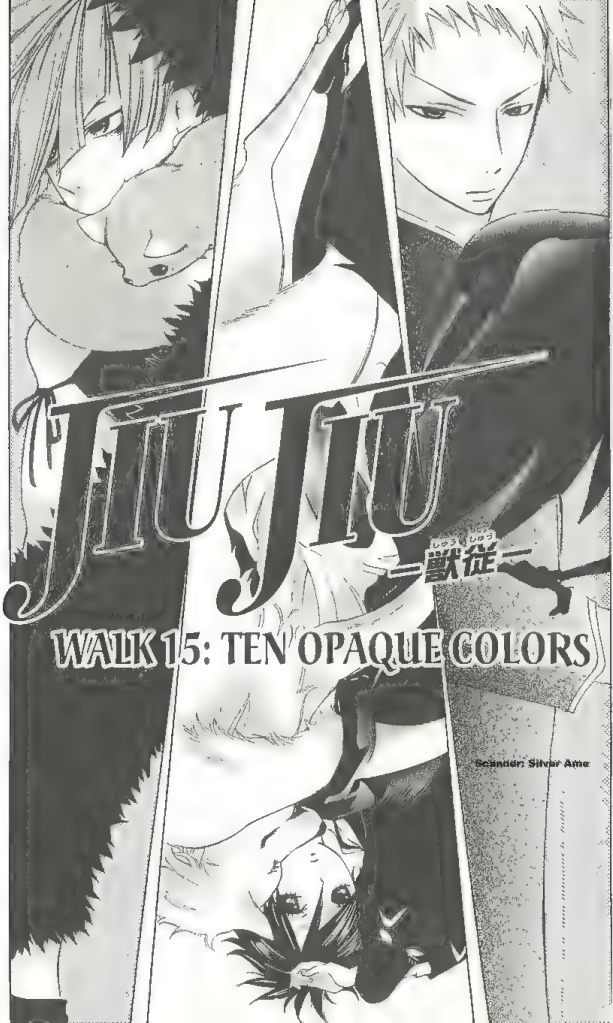
"LIKE HER.

"LET'S GROW STRONG TOGETHER.

AND THAT'S WHERE IT WAS SHINING ...

...ONE RAY OF HOPE.

"I PROMISE."


JIU JIU
—獣従—
WALK 15: TEN OPAQUE COLORS
Scanner: Silver Ame

WHAT'S WRONG...

...YOUNG MISTRESS TAKAMICHI?!

HUH ...?

WEREN'T YOU SHOUTING JUST NOW...?

WAS I...?

ALSO...

...THERE'S BLOOD IN THE CORRIDOR...

OH! THAT'S RIGHT...

Nnn
Nnn
This drunken lout...
...TRIED TO GROPE ME. SO I PUNCHED HIM.
...
GET THE HINT, WILL YA?!
WAIT-!
...MESS RIGHT AWAY...
...
MY APOLO-GIES...
WE'LL CLEAN UP THIS...

ooo

?

!!!

...

BUT-

IT'S ALL RIGHT!

...

CLEAN ...

...IT UP!

IT'S ...

...MY FAULT.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF IT...

VERY WELL THEN...

Tup Tup

SNOW ...
MIKA ...!
GLANCE GLANCE
SHL OOP
PLEASE BE OKAY, BOTH OF YOU!!
SPLASH
HY Uu
...
B-B MP
NIGHT ...!
B-B MP

SPLASH

GASP
...

TAKA...
M....

LET
GO OF
ME...

!

I GUESS YOU'RE ONLY A FENRIR BY NAME, HUH?
HA!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
IT'S GOT...
FWP FWP
!
NIGHT...
SORRY.
...NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

WHAT THE-?!

CALM DOWN, SNOW!

SNOW ?!

I SEE...

YOU PRETENDED TO BE DRUNK...

...TO THROW ME OFF GUARD...

SLGR

YOU CALM DOWN.

...

?!

YOU REALLY DO INTEND TO...
...BLOCK MASTER SEIJURO, DON'T YOU...?
HMPH.
NIGHT ...
HELP ME GET RID OF THIS BIRD WOMAN WITHOUT HURTING HER.
?!
HOLD ON A SEC...
... BOTH OF YOU!!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE ...?
WELL DONE, SNOW.
YOU'RE A CLEVER ONE.
HEH.

I'LL NEVER LET YOU TAKE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI AWAY FROM MASTER SEIJURO!!

SL

ASH

SLK

SHNK

I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT!

IF YOU DON'T LEAVE MY SIGHT...

...I WON'T NEED TO!

AFTER YOU GET RID OF HIM... AM *I* NEXT?

SLASH
SLASH
SLASH
WE'LL STAY BY MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S SIDE— TOGETHER.
OH...
!
...HAS BEEN IN LOVE WITH MISTRESS TAKAMICHI FOR A LONG TIME, YOU KNOW!
MASTER SEIJURO...
DON'T MOCK ME!
I'M NOT!
"NOT"?!
THE WEIGHT OF TEN YEARS...
TEN LONG YEARS HE'S BEEN IN LOVE WITH HER!!
CAN YOU EVEN CONCEIVE OF IT?!
GASH

SLKK

I thought Crow Tengu use swords or spears.

T-TMP

THAT'S A WE.RD WEAPON YOU'VE GOT THERE.

THIS ARALIA-LEAF FAN IS THE ONLY WEAPON I MAY WIELD!

UNFORTU-NATELY...

MASTER SEIJURO SAVED ME...

I PROMISED HIM!

...EVEN THOUGH I WAS BUT A WEAK FEMALE...!

YOU KNOW...

WE SWORE WE'D GROW STRONG— *TOGETHER.*

YOU'VE ONLY EVEN BEEN ALIVE FOR FOUR YEARS YOURSELF!

HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY IMAGINE THE DEPTHS OF HIS DEVOTION?!

...STRONG LIKE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
...
SHU
...!
DAMN ...

OK

...GOING TO GET THE JOB DONE QUIETLY, BUT...

I WAS ...

...IS JUST A GIRL. SHE CAN'T EVEN SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT...

...ON HER OWN.

TAKA-MICHI...

NIGHT!
LET'S GO BACK! TO TAKAMICHI!!
SPRT
SPRT
HOW CAN I GO BACK?

BBBMD

BBBMD

BBBMD

THERE'S A CUT ON YOUR FACE...!

IS ANYONE ELSE HURT ...?!

...!

NIGHT!

ARE YOU HURT ...?!

SLUMP
I'M... SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
!
RIPPLE!
I DON'T SEE ANY WOUNDS ...
BUT I'LL TAKE HER TO OUR DOCTOR ANYWAY TO GET HER CHECKED OUT.

!

WHOSE BLOOD WAS THAT?!

IF IT WASN'T NIGHT OR RIPPLE, THEN...

NIGHT HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE...

You come too.

SHLOOP

THERE YOU ARE. FINALLY.

Question Corner 2

I wasn't sure what to write here. I wanted about it for four days. I went shopping, took my dog for a drive, took my dog for a walk, and then I remembered I still had some questions left to answer!! So here they are.

What kind of drawing materials do you use? If you use Copic markers, please tell me the color numbers.

Fukushima Prefecture. Matsuri Saito

Judging by the second question, I'm assuming you're asking what materials I use for color drawing. For this volume, I used Pilot's security ink to draw the outlines and colored them in using Copic markers and watercolor pencils on illustration board. But usually I just photocopy the outlines and color with Copic markers.

For Mistress Takamichi

Skin→E0000, E00, E0YR00, YR20 R00 and more E0000

Hair→B10, C8 C4, B00 W0, 0

When I want a purple effect I add V06 on top.

Snow

Skin → E0000, R20 R00, YR000

Hair → E40 E43, E48

Night

Skin → E40 E43, E44 E40

Hair → W0 C10 0

When I want a blue effect I use B06 on top.

I usually draw in ink with Copic [illegible]

OH.
I HAD TO SHAVE THE FUR OFF HIS BELLY AND ARM. SO HE MIGHT LOOK FUNNY WHEN HE TRANSFORMS.
SO IT WAS SNOW'S ...
Are you listening to me?
HA HA HA

You'll find a change of clothes over there.

UH-HUH ...

I PUNCHED HIM TWO OR THREE TIMES 'CAUSE HE KEPT STRUGGLING. OR MAYBE IT WAS FIVE OR SIX TIMES...

Could have been ten.

YOU'D BETTER PUT THEM ON BEFORE YOU GET HYPOTHERMIA.

I HAVE TO GO.

TELL ANYBODY AND I'LL KILL YOU.

FIX HIM.

...

THERE'S SOMETHIN' I'VE GOTTA DO.

Scanner: Silver Ame

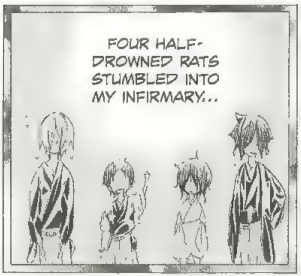
WHAT AM I DOING...?

...

JUDGING BY THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE, I GUESS HE WASN'T ON HIS WAY TO SUMMON YOU ...

...

WHAT AM I DOING?!
I SUSPECTED SNOW...
AND I LET NIGHT AVOID ME AGAIN...


FOUR HALF-DROWNED RATS STUMBLED INTO MY INFIRMARY..

Remember?
THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING TEN YEARS AGO.

HE WAS DRENCHED THE LAST TIME HE CAME HERE TOO...

...TORE THE PLACE APART AND LEFT.
...
LIKE A STORM...
Matteo, Takamichi, your knee's bleeding I'll get you a bandage
Where the hell is a towel? A towel!!
Doctor Gen! I'm hungry!!
Here you go, Mato.
Perfect! Yum!
SMACK
KRUNCH
*RICE CAKE STUFFED WITH RED BEANS
FWIP

I'M BORROWING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, OKAY?

Go ahead— that's fine.

WELL?

"Men" ?

HEY!! DON'T UNDRESS IN FRONT OF OTHER MEN!!

FWIP !

Slut!

GLARE

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT!:

"Men" ?

GEN ...?

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING IMPORTANT...

SHE'S GOING TO BE OKAY TOO...

ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME AS WELL...

...IF I TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS?

NOPE.

I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT.
I'LL JUST SILENCE YOU.

SKRTCH SKRTCH
ESPECIALLY THEM...
I CAN'T LET ANYONE OR ANYTHING DISTURB THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING.

...AND REGRET IT LATER!
SO I MIGHT AS WELL DO IT NOW...
I'M GOING TO REGRET WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO...
Huh?
First, I've got to fix up that room.

After all, she isn't too subtle.

I hope she doesn't overdo it.

SHAK

Hey! There's no point having regrets if you don't learn from your mistakes!

TAKE CARE OF THEM FOR ME!

RSTL

MASTER MIKA...!

WHITE ...

I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR ADVICE.

PLEASE, DON'T DO THIS, MASTER MIKA!

YOU MUSTN'T!

Your reading this is a miracle too

So go ahead and send me your questions and illustrations

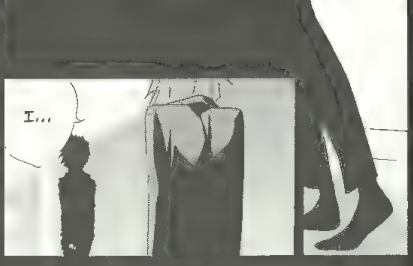
And if you don't mind them being printed in the graphic novel, please write, "I don't mind" on them. Also, if you want to use a pseudonym, please include it.

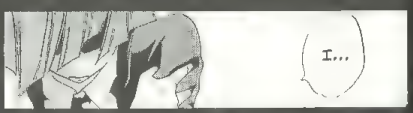
Of course I still eagerly await the arrival of your love letters every single day!

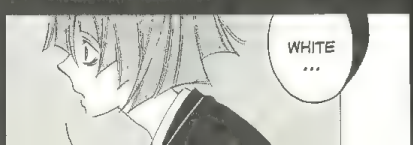
Please send love letters, questions and illustrations to the address below

Jiu Jiu/Shojo Beat
c/o Viz Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Till next time!
Don't forget me!







HE'S THERE, AIN'T HE...?

!

YOU'RE HERE FOR REVENGE...

...AREN'T YOU?

SO AM I...
...
WHITE ...
DO IT!
!
W-W...
...
THROB THROB THROB
ARE YOU OKAY?

UM—?

I LEFT YOU TWO ALONE TOGETHER...

...BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D WORK THINGS OUT.

IT SEEMS ...

...I WAS TOO OPTIMISTIC.

KLTTR K.MA-

MASTER SEIJURO ...

I'll pour you some tea.

RIPPLE ...

RIPPLE ...

YES?

S I P :

WHEN I'M WITH YOU...
...I FEEL AT EASE.
ME TOO.
TMP
WHY DID YOU DO IT?

DIDN'T YOU WANT TO GET REVENGE ON ME? AND HIM?!

...

A KNIFE...

WHY DID YOU PROTECT THAT SON OF A BITCH?!

I STILL WANT...

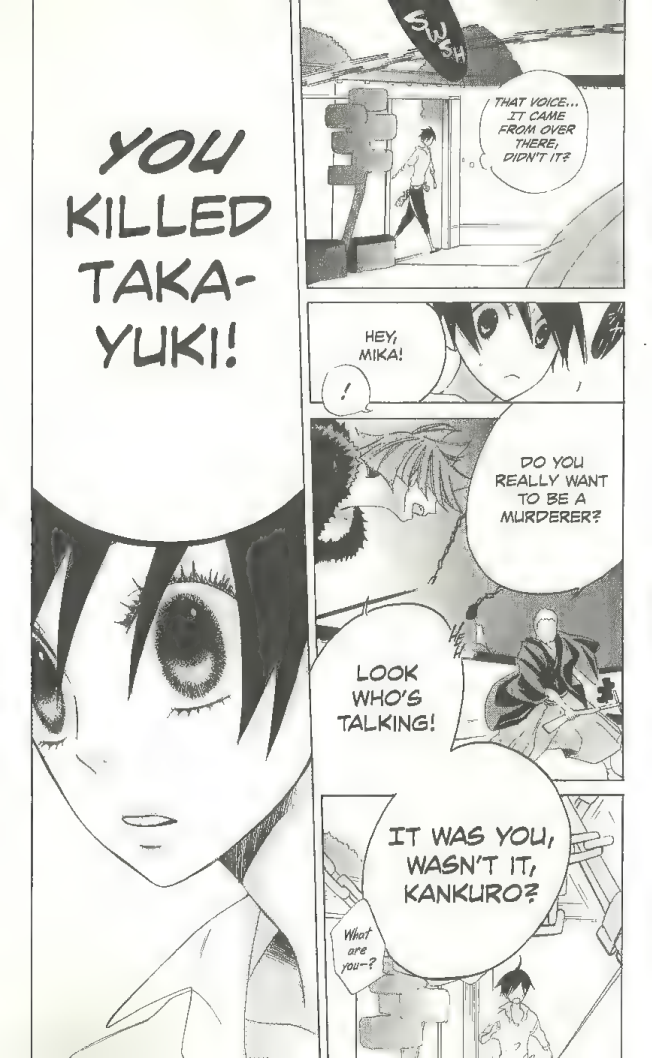
...MY REVENGE.

IF SHE'D LEFT SO MUCH AS A SCRATCH ON ME...

...WE WOULD HAVE HAD AN EXCUSE TO GET RID OF ALL THE MIXED BLOODS...

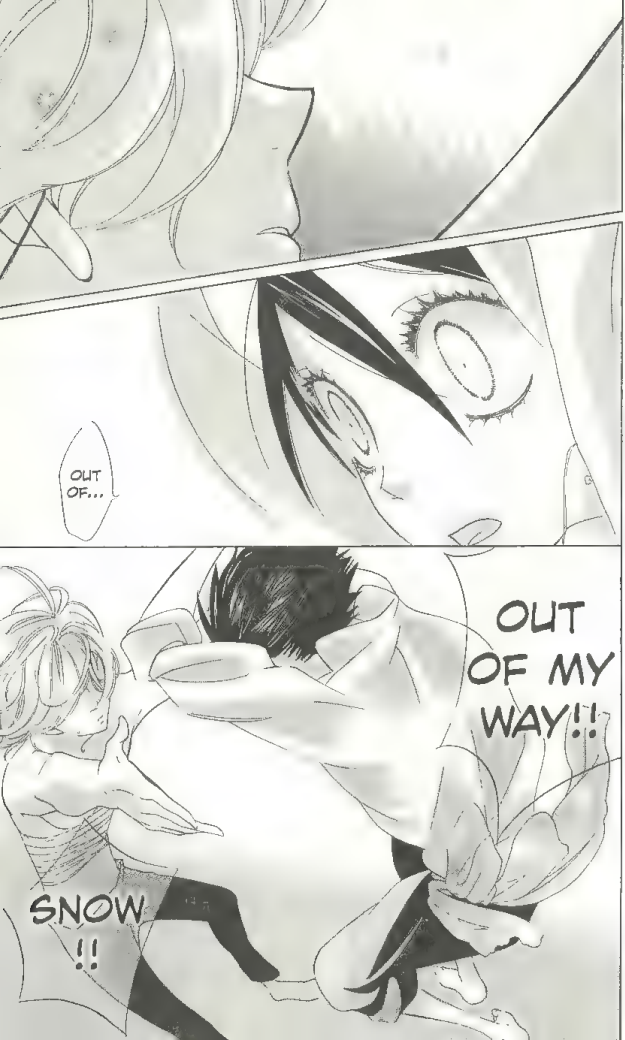
USELESS BEAST.

IT AIN'T OVER YET.


SUSH
THAT VOICE... IT CAME FROM OVER THERE, DIDN'T IT?
YOU KILLED TAKA-YUKI!
HEY, MIKA!
!
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE A MURDERER?
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT, KANKURO?
What are you--?

NGH.

...OR A TIGER!


OUT OF...
OUT OF MY WAY!!
SNOW !!

WE PROMISED ...

...DIDN'T WE?

HAS HIS MISTRESS'S PERSONALITY RUBBED OFF ON HIM?

HMPH.

NIGHT ...

HEY, SNOW!
SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE, NIGHT...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE MOVING AROUND!
BUT ...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND THE LIGHT...
HEY ...
... NIGHT ...
...BUT SO EASY TO GET DRAWN INTO THE DARK.
DON'T HAVE... ENOUGH?
THE YEARS ...
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ...
DON'T OVER-THINK IT.
IT'S NORMAL TO FEEL DOWN FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON.

TIME ISN'T ALL THAT MATTERS.

ESPE-CIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO FEELINGS, TO...

... MATTERS OF THE HEART.

...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...

THEY AREN'T ENOUGH!

THAT'S HOW YOU GROW.

YOU HAVE AN EMOTION ...

YOU SURVIVE IT...

...I'M LATE.
SORRY ...

I WON'T ...

...RUN AWAY ANYMORE.

JIU JIU 3: THE END

To be continued...

Scanner: Silver Ame

SLEEPING ON THE TATAMI.*

*STRAW MAT

He moved.

PEEK

!!

He's no cat— he's a tanuki! Idiot, idiot...

I knew it! He moved!

What a weird face!

GASP

ROLL

FOOT

SHFT ...

DRG DRG DRG DRG

SL Die! AP

SHDDR

?!
KICK
SHOOK
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
Scanner: Silver Ame
When did you ...?
GRIN
HUG
!!

...

Yuki...

TKL

WAG WAG

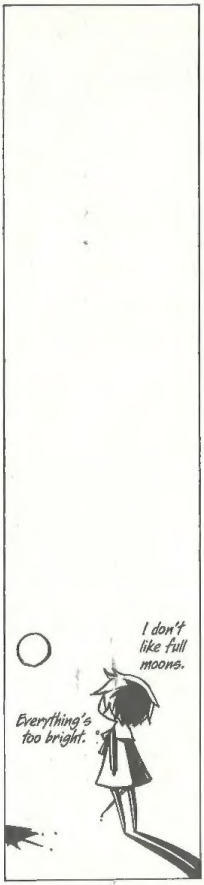
AHCHOO!

PAT PAT

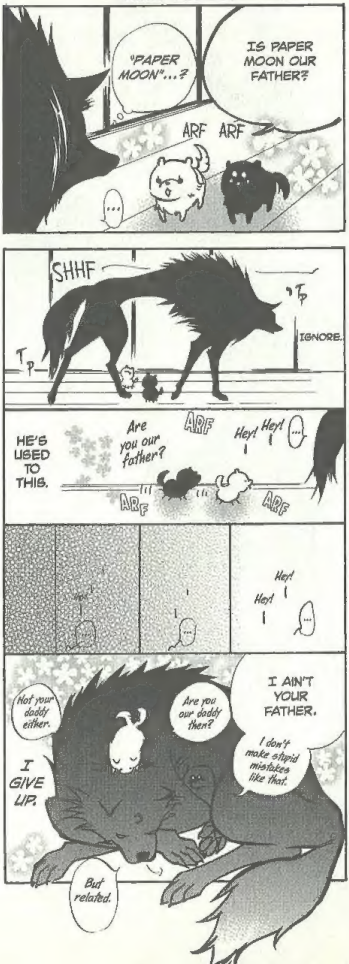
Get out of your human form!

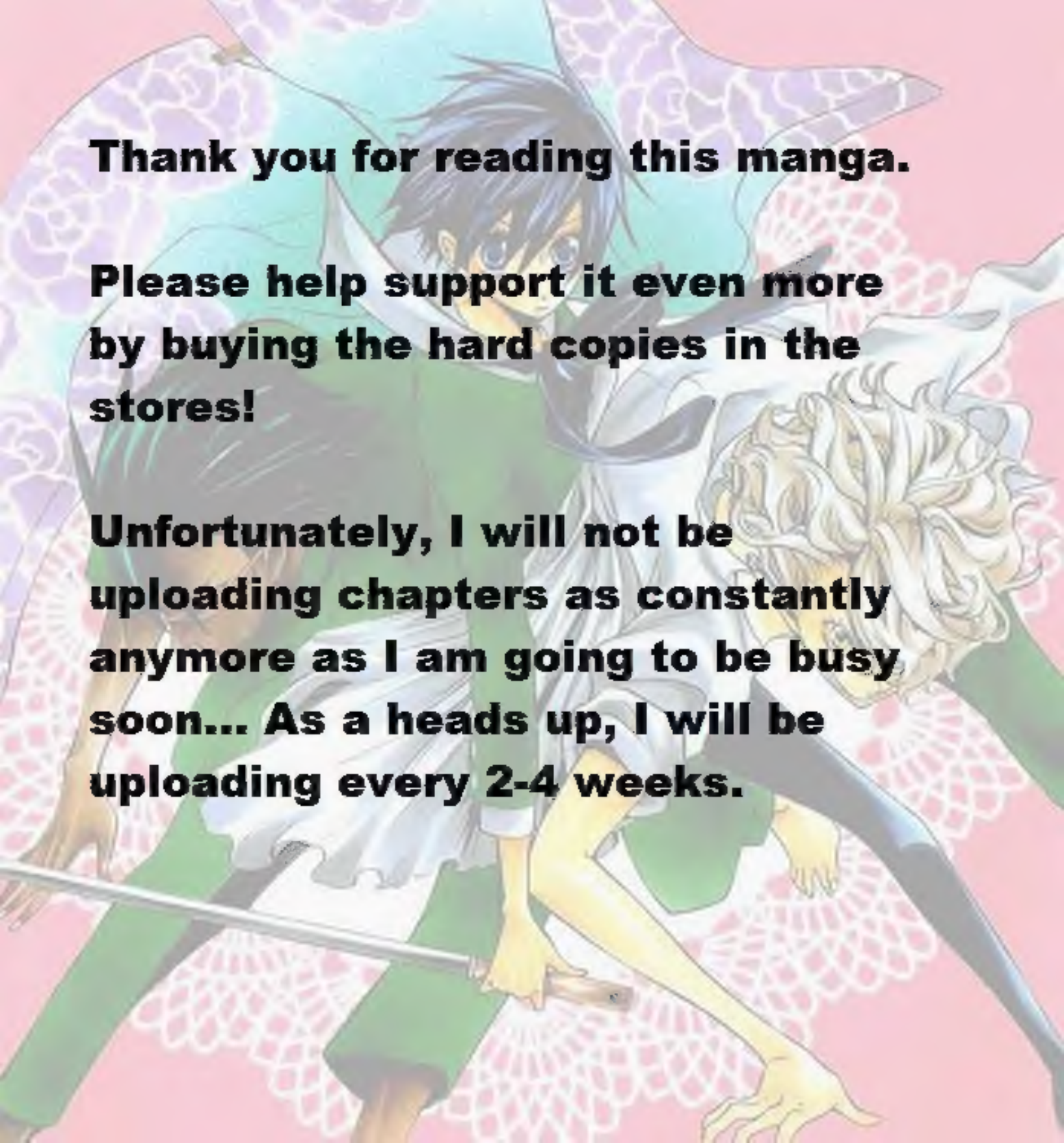
TAKAMICHI ENCOUNTERS THE OTHER

OH. HAVEN'T YOU SEEN MOON IN HIS HUMAN FORM YET?
THEY'LL TAKE HUMAN FORM SOONER OR LATER— LIKE MOON.
SNEAK
MOON! COME!
YES?
HUH ...?
←Takamichi
...
THIS IS MY JIU JIU, MOON.
BO-RING...
I ONLY SHOW MY HUMAN FORM TO WOMEN, YOU KNOW.
HE'S NINE.
HEH. LIKE PEAS IN A POD...
YOU MAY CALL ME MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
WHAT A BRAT.
YOU'RE AN UNDER-AGE OLD MAN!
Forget it.
I'll put you in your place.
"BRAT" SUITS YOU FINE.
INCOMPATIBLE!
YOU'VE GOT A NERVE LOOKING DOWN AT ME, YOU OLD GEEZER!


I don't like full moons.
Everything's too bright.

SUSPICION


"PAPER MOON"...?
IS PAPER MOON OUR FATHER?
ARF ARF
...
SHHF
IGNORE.
HE'S USED TO THIS.
Are you our father?
ARF
Hey! Hey!
ARF
ARF
Hey!
Hey!
I GIVE UP.
Not your daddy either.
Are you our daddy then?
I AIN'T YOUR FATHER.
I don't make stupid mistakes like that.
But related.



Thank you for reading this manga.

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Unfortunately, I will not be uploading chapters as constantly anymore as I am going to be busy soon... As a heads up, I will be uploading every 2-4 weeks.